Respecting Our Past, **Embracing Our Future**

Legislative Assembly Office Annual Report 2013
and the 2013 Annual Report of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Alberta Branch and Interparliamentary Relations

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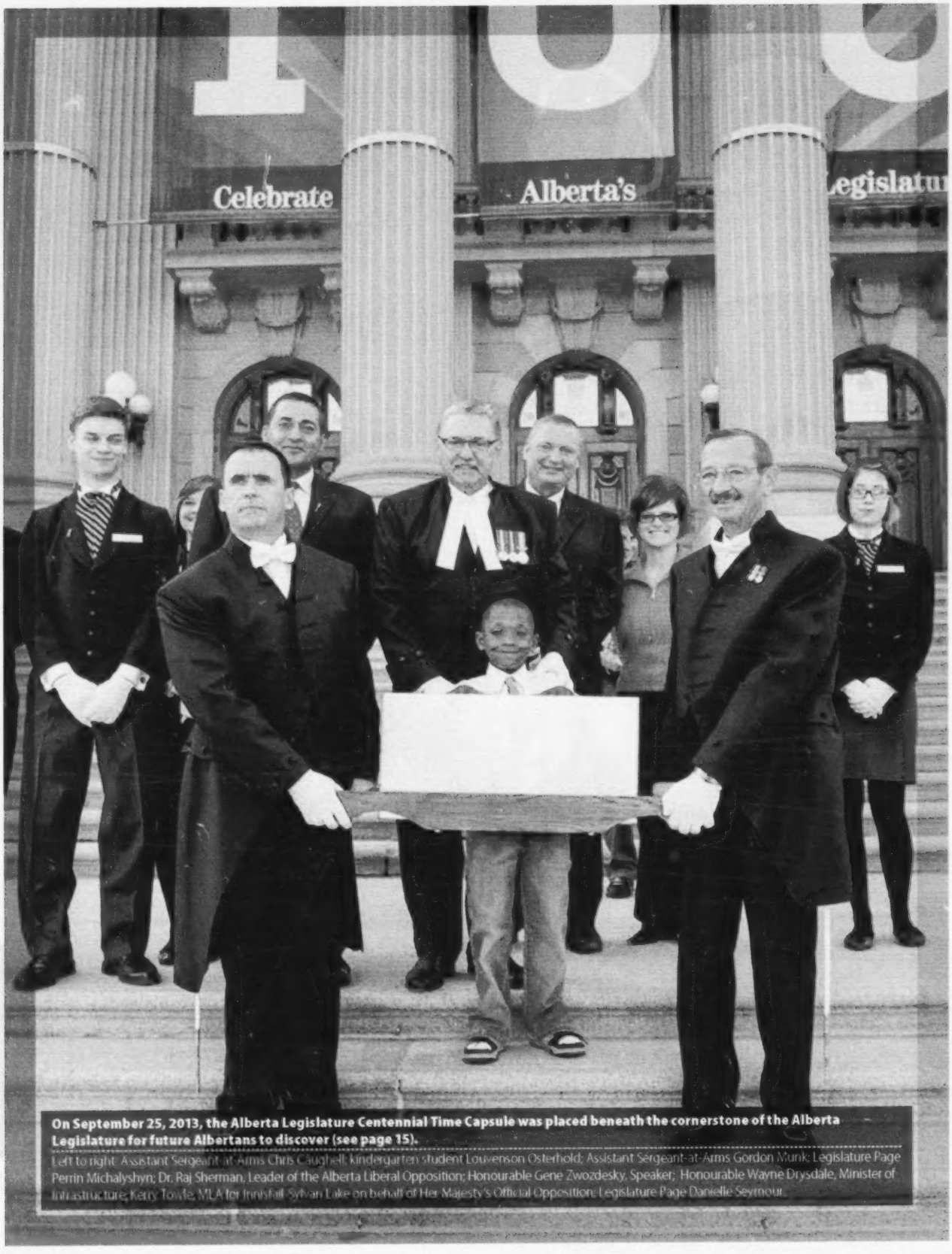


On September 25, 2013, the Alberta Legislature Centennial Time Capsule was placed beneath the cornerstone of the Alberta Legislature for future Albertans to discover (see page 15).

Left to right: Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Chris Caughell; kindergarten student Louivenson Osterhold; Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms Gordon Munk; Legislature Page Perrin Michalyshyn; Dr. Raj Sherman, Leader of the Alberta Liberal Opposition; Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, Speaker; Honourable Wayne Drysdale, Minister of Infrastructure; Kerry Towle, MLA for Innisfail-Sylvan Lake on behalf of Her Majesty's Official Opposition; Legislature Page Danielle Seymour.

Message from the Speaker |
Respecting Our Past, Embracing Our Future

Striking the perfect balance between our duty to preserve the centuries-old traditions on which our parliamentary system is based while holding a steady gaze on future growth and development is an act familiar to the Legislative Assembly Office (LAO). Perhaps more than most years 2013 tested our proficiency as the LAO carried out events and activities that both bolstered our connection to our parliamentary roots and laid the groundwork for the advancement of our services.

Far more than a single event, the Alberta Legislature Centennial Time Capsule placement took on a life of its own over the course of the year. Connecting our past, present and future, the time capsule became a bridge between generations and a symbol of our progress. Further emphasizing this link, the "Student Letters to the Future" Initiative will ensure that the voices of today resonate with the generations of tomorrow when the capsule is opened in 2112.

In support of our mandate to promote the parliamentary system in Alberta, I was pleased to host one of the largest parliamentary conferences in all of Canada. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Canadian Regional Conference brought together legislators from across the country and abroad to discuss numerous issues of common interest. Forums such as these are invaluable in building partnerships between regions and Legislatures.

Upholding democratic ideals, facilitating public engagement in the parliamentary process and encouraging active citizenship have always been top priorities for the LAO and are a large part of building a parliamentary legacy.

The move to what is currently referred to as the Edmonton Federal Building (EFB) will underpin these priorities and support development. Expected to begin in the spring of 2015, the relocation will allow for the expansion of our services to Members and the public as never before. In 2013, all branches were occupied with planning for the transition as well as for the organizational growth to follow.

During the year the LAO also celebrated many successes owing to the enhancement of service delivery. From offering streaming to mobile users, to providing creative solutions for human resource challenges, employees were focused on finding efficiencies that ultimately resulted in stronger support to our clients.

While none of us know what might unfold in the ensuing years, if we continue to build upon the traditions of our predecessors, we ensure a solid future for our organization and for the traditions of the institution we serve.

Gene Zwozdesky

Honourable Gene Zwozdesky
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta

"Change the world; make it a brighter place where everyone has a home and someone who cares about them. Make a difference while you are still here. You are the future of us; you determine how the world will be governed. Stand up for what you believe in and accept and love others for their differences. In the blink of an eye, you will become the past and 100 years from now people will look back on your legacy and hopefully say, 'Wow, they really made a difference.' You are the future."

Brooke Palha
Grade 9, Cowther Memorial Junior High School
Strathmore, Alberta
Participant in the Student Letters to the Future contest (see page 15).

Our Mission

To provide nonpartisan parliamentary support to the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly as they carry out their roles as elected representatives.

Our Vision

Respect Tradition | Exemplify Service | Promote Innovation

Our Values

Impartiality | Integrity | Improvement

Employees of the Legislative Assembly Office (LAO) are proud to provide services to the Legislative Assembly on behalf of the citizens of Alberta. We are guided in our work and conduct by a core set of principles that motivate us as individuals and reflect the qualities of the office as a whole.

Our History

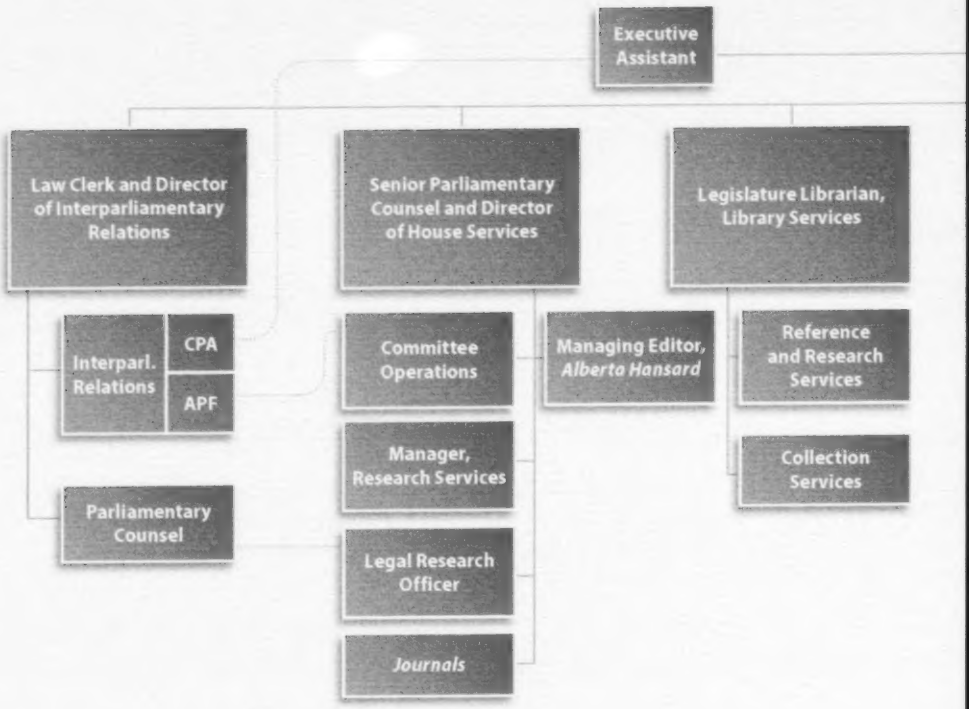
Established in 1983, the origins of Alberta's Legislative Assembly Office can be traced back to 14th-century England, when Parliament elected the first Speaker and appointed the first Clerk. The Legislative Assembly Office works hard to uphold and abide by parliamentary tradition while at the same time ensuring our operations are run in a nonpartisan manner and respond to the needs of the Members we serve.

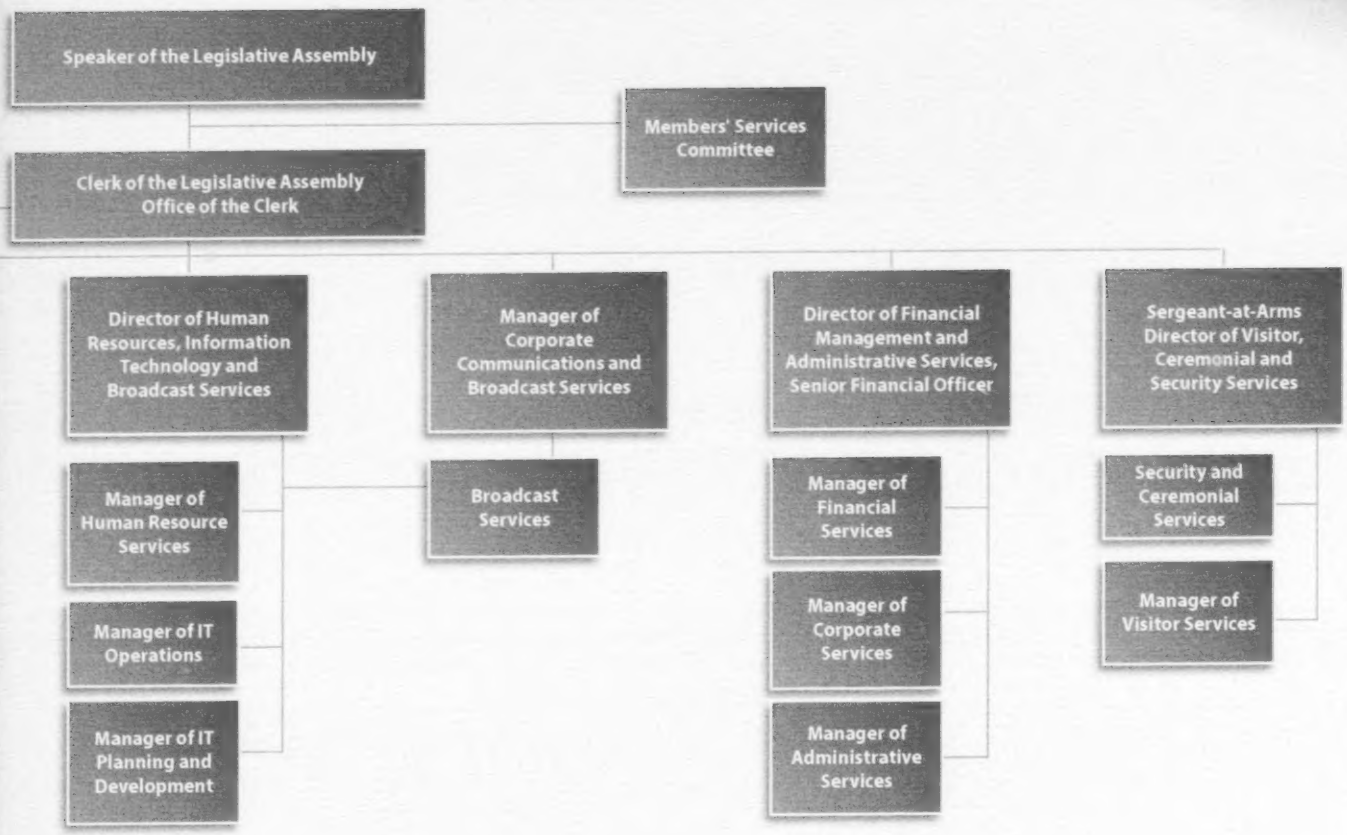
It may come as a surprise to some, but the Legislative Assembly Office is not a government department. The government is the executive branch, responsible for applying and enforcing laws, and the Legislative Assembly is responsible for establishing those laws. The LAO is a unique entity separate from government with the dedication and commitment to provide all Members of the Legislative Assembly, regardless of party affiliation, with the support they need to represent and serve their constituents.

Our Team | Message from the Clerk

Even after close to 30 years, I find myself impressed by the degree of professionalism and co-operation demonstrated by this fine team. Our Members and the citizens of our province are well served by the employees of the LAO.

W.J. David McNeil
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta




Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Members' Services Committee
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly Office of the Clerk
Director of Human Resources, Information Technology and Broadcast Services
Manager of Corporate Communications and Broadcast Services
Director of Financial Management and Administrative Services, Senior Financial Officer
Sergeant-at-Arms Director of Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services
Manager of Human Resource Services
Manager of IT Operations
Manager of IT Planning and Development
Broadcast Services
Manager of Financial Services
Manager of Corporate Services
Manager of Administrative Services
Security and Ceremonial Services
Manager of Visitor Services

Our Services | The LAO, under the authority of the Speaker, provides nonpartisan procedural, administrative and educational services to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public.

These services include:

Office of the Clerk

The Clerk is the chief executive officer of the Legislative Assembly and has authority and responsibility equivalent to that of a deputy minister. Under the direction of the Speaker the Clerk has both procedural and managerial responsibilities and oversees the delivery of nonpartisan services to Members of the Legislative Assembly and their staff.

The Office of the Clerk is responsible for:

- providing advice, research and support to the Speaker and Members on procedural matters concerning the privileges, rules, usages and proceedings of the Assembly and co-ordinating procedural services by other officers of the Assembly; preparing documents of the Assembly and ensuring the safekeeping of the Assembly's documents and records;
- providing all necessary administrative and support services to the Assembly during its sittings and ensuring that essential services are provided to the Assembly Chamber;
- presiding over the election of the Speaker at the opening of a new Legislature;
- announcing the Assembly's order of business and conducting its recorded votes or divisions during its sittings; and
- supervising the officers of the Assembly, including the Director of House Services, Parliamentary Counsel, Law Clerk and Sergeant-at-Arms.

As chief operating officer the Clerk has the following managerial responsibilities:

- directing the operational services of the Legislative Assembly Office;
- authorizing all financial commitments the Assembly enters into;
- directing the preparation of the Assembly's annual estimates and advising the Members' Services Committee in their consideration and approval;
- acting as liaison at the deputy minister level with government departments on matters related to the Assembly, the Chamber and the Legislative Assembly Office; and
- serving as chair of the LAO Executive Committee (Law Clerk, Director of House Services, Sergeant-at-Arms, Director of Human Resources, Information Technology and Broadcast Services, Director of Financial Management and Administrative Services, Legislature Librarian, and Manager of Corporate Communications and Broadcast Services).

Communications Services

Communications Services provides strategic planning, consulting and design expertise to the LAO's internal and external audiences. Communications Services' responsibilities include:

- supporting the organizational goals of the LAO and the mandates of all-party committees;
- delivering professional writing, design and web services in the creation of promotional and educational materials for the LAO;
- co-ordinating social media and media relations and maintaining internal and external websites for the Legislative Assembly; and
- assisting with planning, execution and documentation in support of special events.

Broadcast Services

Broadcast Services oversees the accurate and high-quality broadcast production of the House proceedings. Additional responsibilities of Broadcast Services include:

- managing the communication of information affecting the broadcast;
- developing guidelines and procedures for broadcast operations; and
- assisting with the co-ordination of remote broadcasts involving external media.

AKER, PROVIDES NONPARTISAN, PROCE
SERVICES TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LEG
, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE SPEAK

Parliamentary Counsel

The office of Parliamentary Counsel is comprised of the Law Clerk, who heads the branch, Senior Parliamentary Counsel, lawyers and staff. The branch provides legal advice to the Speaker, Members, committees and the LAO on a broad range of legal issues, including contract law, employment law and leasing. The office is also responsible for:

- providing legal assistance to Members in the performance of their duties;
- serving as corporate counsel to the LAO in executing contracts and other legal agreements;
- defending and asserting the rights, privileges and immunities of Members and the Assembly;
- assisting Members with administering oaths and using their ex officio notarial powers;
- serving as counsel to the committees of the Assembly, including Members' Services, Legislative Offices, Private Bills and the Legislative Policy Committees;
- aiding Members with the drafting of private Members' Bills and amendments to all types of Bills as well as providing advice on private Bills;
- approving petitions prior to their presentation in the Assembly; and
- preparing official copies of the Bills enacted by the Legislature.

In addition, some members of the office serve as Table Officers, providing legal and procedural advice in the Assembly.

Interparliamentary Relations

Interparliamentary Relations is responsible for organizing Alberta's participation in various parliamentary associations and organizations and managing relations between the Assembly and other Canadian and international parliaments. Responsibilities include:

- co-ordinating the Legislative Assembly's participation in conferences, seminars and exchanges of a parliamentary nature in Canada and abroad; and
- organizing programs for incoming parliamentarians and legislators from around the world.

House Services

House Services oversees House and committee proceedings and is responsible for the production of various House and committee documents and records, including the official report of the debates of the Assembly and its committees, also known as *Alberta Hansard*, as well as the Order Paper, Votes and Proceedings and the *Journals*.

Other responsibilities include:

- providing procedural advice to the Speaker and Members and preparing documents for the daily business of the House;
- ensuring that all administrative, financial and support services are available for the effective operation of standing and special committees of the Assembly;
- providing nonpartisan research and issue analysis as directed and in support of the mandates of the committees of the Assembly;
- processing items to be placed on notice on the Order Paper, including Bills, Motions, Written Questions, Motions for Returns and Motions Other than Government Motions; and
- maintaining custody of current and historical Assembly records.

Human Resource Services

Human Resource Services (HRS) provides customized human resource management, compensation and consulting services that enhance overall organizational performance. These services include:

- development and implementation of multidisciplinary human resource strategies to meet operational objectives;

- leadership and advice on human resources related issues such as organizational design and planning, recruitment, talent management and development, employee relations, health and wellness, disability management, Member remuneration and staff compensation and classification;
- management of the integrated in-house payroll and HR systems; and
- ensuring an efficient transition of staff and MLAs at general elections, by-elections and cabinet shuffles.

Financial Management and Administrative Services

Financial Management and Administrative Services (FMAS) supports the Speaker, Members and the LAO by providing financial management and administrative services.

Financial Management services include budget preparation, processing of claims, expenses and allowances (Members, caucuses and branches), transaction compliance review and accounting, preparation of monthly reports for Members and branches, preparation of financial statements and co-ordination of the financial statement audit.

Administrative services include furniture, equipment and supplies procurement, co-ordination of telecommunications services, constituency office services (leasing, set-up, moves, et cetera) and property management co-ordination for LAO offices and caucuses.

In addition, FMAS is also responsible for:

- administering the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* as it pertains to the LAO and providing advice and assistance in access and privacy matters for Members and the LAO;
- managing the development and implementation of an information and records management program for the Legislative Assembly and providing advice and support on information records management issues to Members of the Assembly and staff; and
- providing risk management and insurance coverage, advice and claims co-ordination services to Members and LAO branches.

Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services

Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services (VCSS) provides services ranging from developing and managing public programming to providing security services for the Legislative Assembly, its precincts and all constituency offices. In addition, VCSS advises MLAs, constituency staff and LAO employees on security matters, liaises with external intelligence, public safety and security organizations and is responsible for:

- directing the LAO security access card program;
- directing the Page program;
- taking attendance of Members in the House;
- providing the care and custody of the Mace and the furniture and fittings of the Assembly;
- directing the operation of the Interpretive Centre and Gift Shop;
- offering services to the public, including guided tours, gallery bookings and educational programs; and
- conceiving, planning and executing ceremonial and special events.

Library Services

Library Services provides nonpartisan, confidential and timely information, news and reference services to Members and their constituency and caucus staff as well as the LAO. Applying both a traditional approach and the latest technology, Library Services is also responsible for:

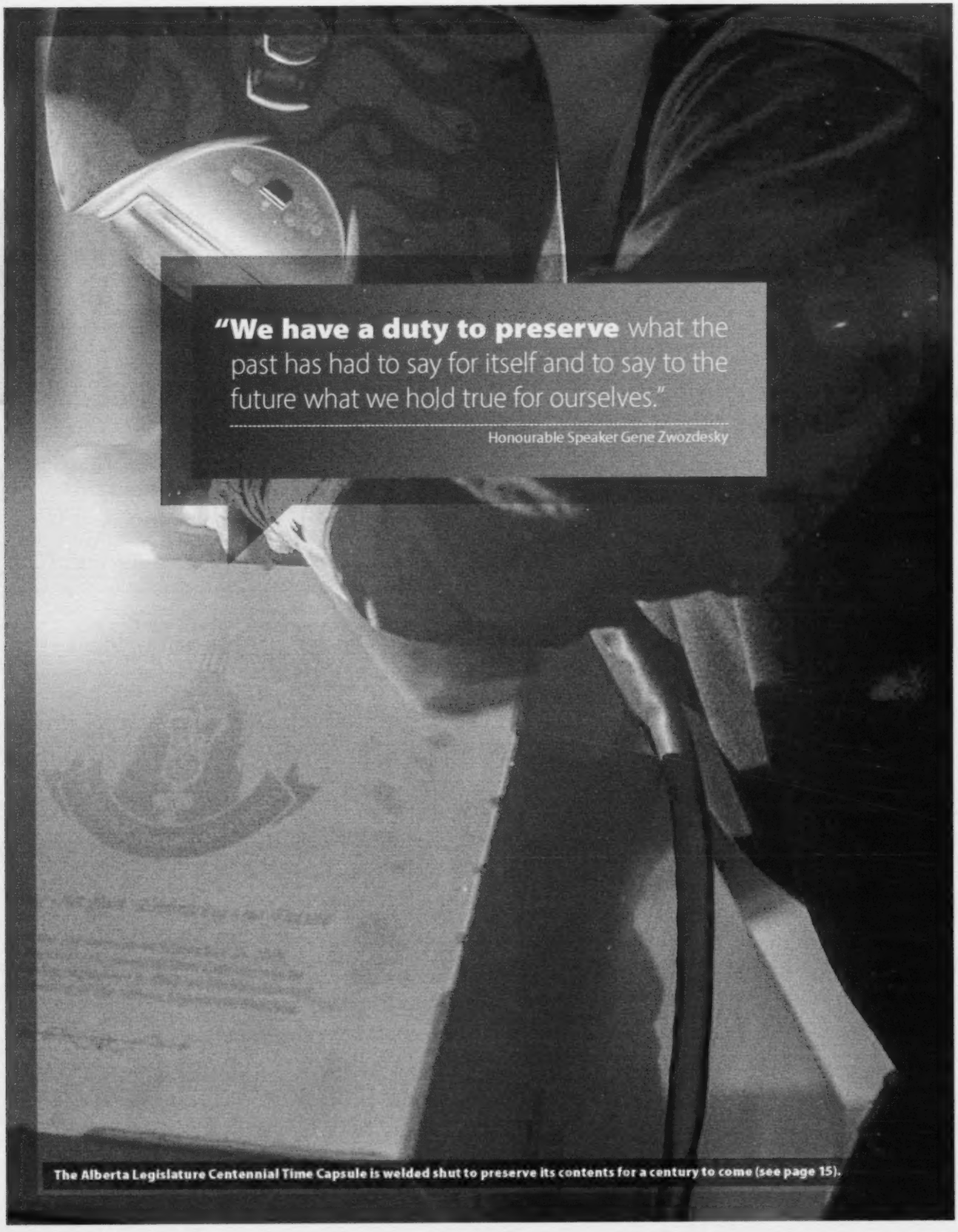
- compiling and delivering a customized daily electronic news service to Members;
- responding to Members' information needs through subscription databases and e-books as well as an electronic government documents repository and parliamentary network;
- collecting and providing access to information on public policy matters in areas such as health, law, science, business, environment, energy, social issues and education; and
- preserving and chronicling information about Alberta's history and parliamentary heritage, including data about Members and electoral divisions.

Information Technology Services

Information Technology Services (ITS) provides all technology services to the Speaker, Members, caucuses, constituency offices and LAO branches. ITS focuses on introducing the latest in technology to best serve the needs of the stakeholders. Services include:

- acquiring, deploying and maintaining all hardware and software;
- procuring and supporting mobile devices, as well as negotiating contracts;
- co-ordinating and delivering IT training;
- supporting all network infrastructure, including network servers, cabling and wireless facilities;
- enforcing policies and guidelines to provide a secure IT environment;
- providing consultation services to analyze business needs and deploy the best technology solution;
- developing and deploying applications on multiple platforms, including desktop and web;
- supporting enterprise applications with a focus on workflow and integrating with the business processes; and
- supporting audiovisual and multimedia applications, including streaming of House and committee proceedings.

Our Progress


"We have a duty to preserve what the past has had to say for itself and to say to the future what we hold true for ourselves."
Honourable Speaker Gene Zwozdesky

The Alberta Legislature Centennial Time Capsule is welded shut to preserve its contents for a century to come (see page 15).

1909 – Time Capsule Restoration

In 2012, during the 100th anniversary of the Alberta Legislature Building, the time capsule that was buried in 1909 was retrieved from behind the cornerstone. The contents of the over-100-year-old vessel were later revealed, and after being on public display for over a year the arduous task of restoring the artifacts began. Legislature Library staff continued to work well into 2013 in collaboration with archivists from the Provincial Archives of Alberta to complete the process.

Valerie Footz, Legislature Librarian, asserted that the biggest challenge in their efforts has been the disintegration of the paper items discovered in the capsule. A century's worth of Alberta's extreme weather conditions was clearly too much for these historic items to keep their shape and form. As the time capsule was essentially stored outside, the freeze and thaw cycles greatly eroded the condition of the capsule and its contents.

2013 – Alberta Legislature Centennial Time Capsule

While it remained to be seen what thousands of Albertans would choose for the Alberta Legislature Centennial Time Capsule, Library staff began collecting possible items for inclusion early on. Limited edition and commemorative items were saved in case they were not available at the time the votes were tallied. According to Valerie Footz, "From a historical perspective we wanted to ensure that what Albertans chose could be included as their selections are important in conveying Alberta's story to its future residents."

As for the preservation process ageless oxygen absorbers, archival safe bags and boxes, corrosion intercept bags and a method for the de-acidification of papers were all used to ensure that all the mementos were well protected. These comprehensive efforts were made to secure the capsule so that Albertans of tomorrow will find the items in good condition when it is opened in 100 years.

Having learned from the past, if you will, a thick stainless steel box 0.75 mm thick was chosen as the container, and to further minimize exposure to moisture or other gasses that could damage the contents, the capsule was welded shut rather than just crimped closed.

2112 – Ahead by a Century

When the Alberta Legislature Centennial Time Capsule is opened in the year 2112, perhaps the overarching message that will be conveyed will be one of hope and optimism. Future generations will certainly find these sentiments within the eight letters to the future written by students from across the province. And while we do not know the content of private notes left in the capsule by the Speaker, Lieutenant Governor, Premier and Leaders of the Opposition parties, one can surmise that political and democratic perspectives of the day gave shape to their messages. Imagine the significance that such correspondence could hold for the future men and women who will sit in these honourable posts.

In the words of leading historic preservationist William Murtagh: "It has been said that, at its best, preservation engages the past in a conversation with the present over a mutual concern for the future." If this is indeed true, then one can happily predict that our descendants, 100 years from now, will be engaged in both a hearty and meaningful discussion about the items that we have left for them to discover.

Myrna Driedger, Chair of the Canadian Region of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) and Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, addresses the delegation at the CWP Canadian Region Conference held in Edmonton from July 14 to 15 in conjunction with the 51st CPA Canadian Regional Conference.

In today's world there is a perception that communication between people has become more efficient. It is no wonder that many people enjoy the immediacy and wide reach of today's technology as advances in social media, telecommunications and other computing applications are exciting and fast changing. Still, one might argue the tremendous value of traditional face-to-face meetings.

Organizations such as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) thankfully continue to recognize the importance of personal relationships. The association encourages and enables parliamentarians to reach beyond their own jurisdictions, contributing to the betterment of the democratic practices and effective policy-making.

Nothing is comparable to attending events such as the CPA Conference. Members have the opportunity to exchange personal reflections about their experiences; these one-on-one discussions can never take place quite the same way over the airwaves or through e-mail.

Likewise, such conferences also present myriad opportunities for staff to develop skills, broaden their scope of parliamentary proceedings and further their understanding of the nuances of the democratic system.

From July 14 to 20, 2013, Alberta Legislative Assembly Speaker, the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, hosted the 51st Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Canadian Regional Conference, bringing together parliamentarians and clerks from across Canada and delegates from as far away as India and Australia.

The conference was truly an all hands-on-deck operation. The Legislative Assembly Office was called upon to co-ordinate all aspects of planning the CPA Conference and the execution of the comprehensive program.

"The staff's collective efforts were instrumental in the successful delivery of the largest annual parliamentary conference in Canada."

Robert H. Reynolds, QC, Law Clerk and Director of Interparliamentary Relations

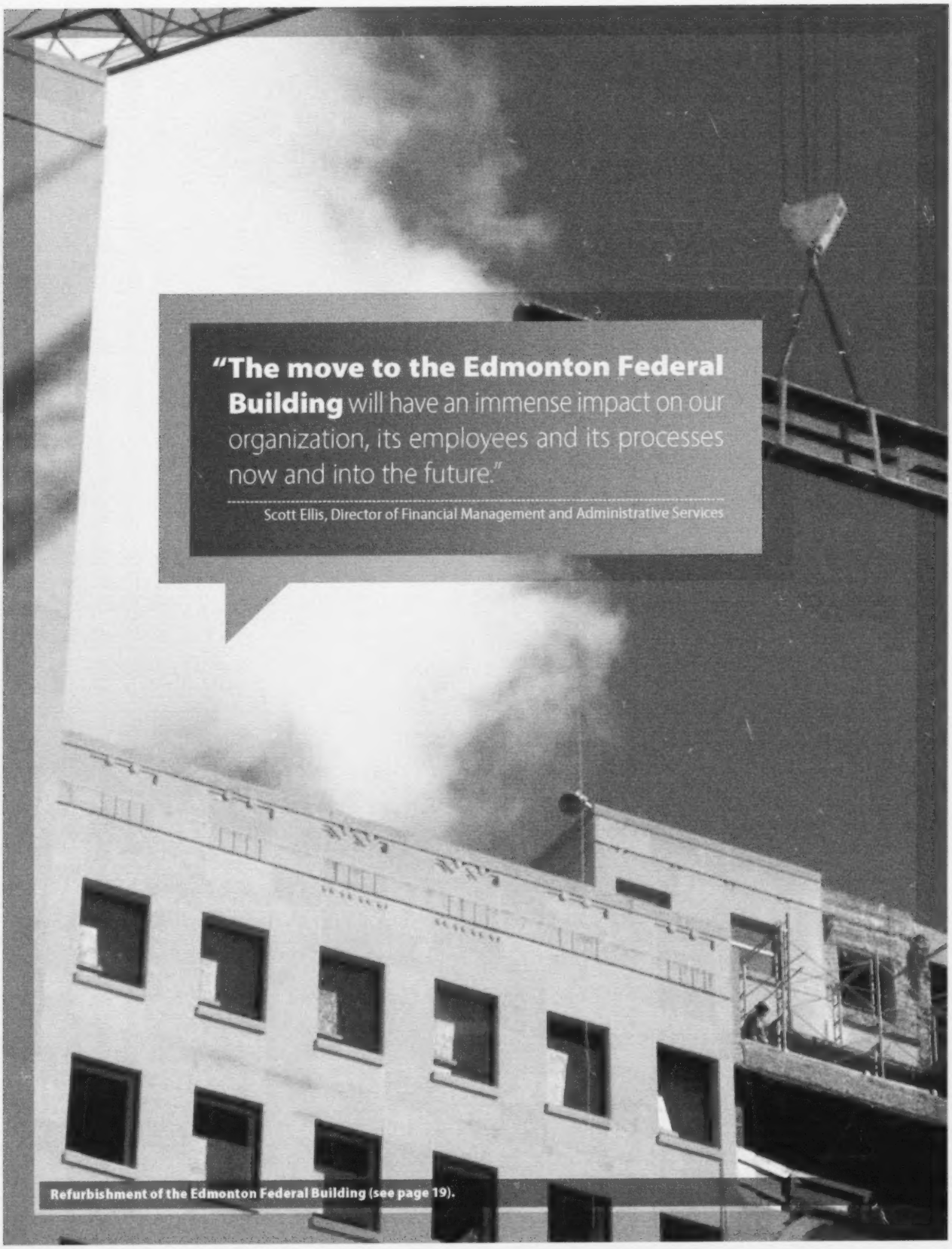
All branches of the LAO took part in the planning and offered advice in their areas of expertise. "I am proud to say that the result was a seamless event overall," said Robert H. Reynolds, QC, Law Clerk and Director of Interparliamentary Relations. "During the conference delegates were challenged with thought-provoking business sessions, and staff members had the chance to give our guests a favourable impression of the Alberta Assembly. Everyone acted as ambassadors and hosts on behalf of the Speaker, and our guests were treated with warm Alberta hospitality."

Interparliamentary Relations, with the support of House Services and Parliamentary Counsel, led the charge and oversaw the delegate programs. VCSS contributed resources in the areas of hosting, tours, security, transportation and itinerary planning for the partners' and youth programs. Communications offered their expertise in writing as well as designing conference materials and visual elements while *Hansard* provided transcription services for all of the meetings and business sessions. Human Resources co-ordinated staffing assignments throughout the event and FMAS ensured that all the necessary contracts for the delegates' accommodations were in place well in advance of their arrival.

With a large number of staff with varying degrees of expertise and experience from across all branches involved in the CPA Conference, it was no wonder how well the event came together. Effective planning meetings amongst organizers prior to the conference were a key element that led to its success.

The people, the landscape and the diversity of Alberta were presented in a very good light due in large part to the hard work and commitment of every individual involved with the event. Every effort was made to ensure not only that delegates would have a meaningful experience during their visit to the Legislative Assembly of Alberta but also that organizers would learn a great deal from one another during the 51st CPA Canadian Regional Conference.

Honourable Charnjit Singh Atwal, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Punjab (India), addresses the delegation at the 51st CPA Canadian Regional Conference.


"The move to the Edmonton Federal Building will have an immense impact on our organization, its employees and its processes now and into the future."
Scott Ellis, Director of Financial Management and Administrative Services

Refurbishment of the Edmonton Federal Building (see page 19).

Embracing Our Future | Accommodating Growth, Fostering Innovation

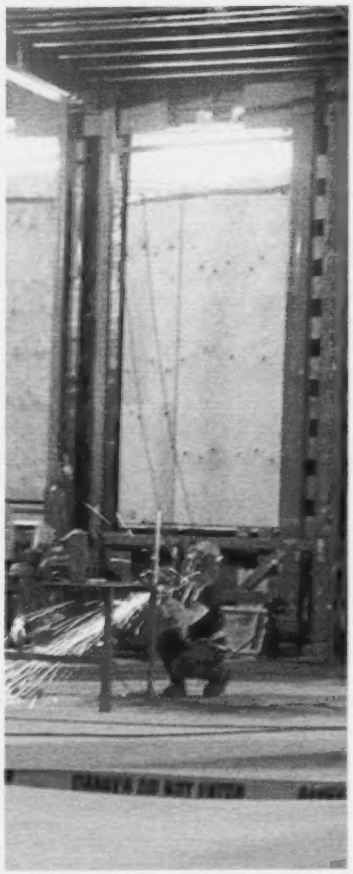
The Alberta Legislature, the heart of democracy in our province, is not only a distinguished historical landmark but also a major tourist destination, attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. The allure of the Legislature lies in the richness of its history and the majesty of its ornate architecture. From the colourful anecdote of Alberta ingenuity as illustrated by our first Mace, largely fashioned from recycled materials, to the ancient origins of the awe-inspiring Corinthian columns crafted from marble in a decadent tribute to the beaux arts style, our Legislature is beloved for the stories it tells. But, perhaps, most intriguing of all the tales are the accounts of the men and women who've held seats in each of Alberta's 28 Legislatures thus far. Janet Schwegel, Managing Editor of *Alberta Hansard* explains, "The crucial work that has taken place within the Chamber over the past century is, in essence, a record of our province's progress."

Decisions made by our legislators become part of society's collective story, and for over 30 years the LAO has helped the Legislative Assembly in composing this canon. The long-awaited move to the Edmonton Federal Building (EFB) signals the beginning of a new chapter. The EFB will foster an environment of innovation, allowing for the enhancement of our services to Members and the public.

To further educate our public

One of the most anticipated attractions is the visitor centre, which will further our mandate to educate Alberta's citizens and encourage participation in our parliamentary system. While exploring the dynamic space, visitors will delve into our province's history, experience our cultural diversity and discover the many ways Albertans can participate in active citizenship. A highlight of the space, an 80-seat theatre-in-the-round, will support educational programming. Brian Hodgson, Director of Visitor, Ceremonial and Security Services, looks forward to showcasing our province as never before. In describing the benefits of the new space, he said, "Public education can take many forms, and the visitor centre will provide countless ways for the public to learn about and appreciate the province."

VCSS is overseeing the creation of the visitor centre as well as the countless exhibits, displays and interactive elements to be featured throughout. In addition to supporting educational programming goals, it is anticipated that the new space will allow for additional event opportunities. As well, a new 3,000-square-foot gift shop will ensure that visitors encapsulate their informative experience with a keepsake, literally taking home a piece of Alberta.



To encourage greater participation in the parliamentary system

To further advance our public engagement goals, we are overseeing the construction of a new committee facility on the second floor of the EFB. Each of the facility's four committee rooms will feature state-of-the art equipment to effectively support current and future technological demands. More in-house seating for the public, additional space designated for the media and live video streaming of committee proceedings are advancements that, as explained by Shannon Dean, Senior Parliamentary Counsel and Director of House Services, will allow for greater public involvement in the committee process, an important part of the parliamentary system and one of the only avenues open to the public for providing direct input into proposed legislation.

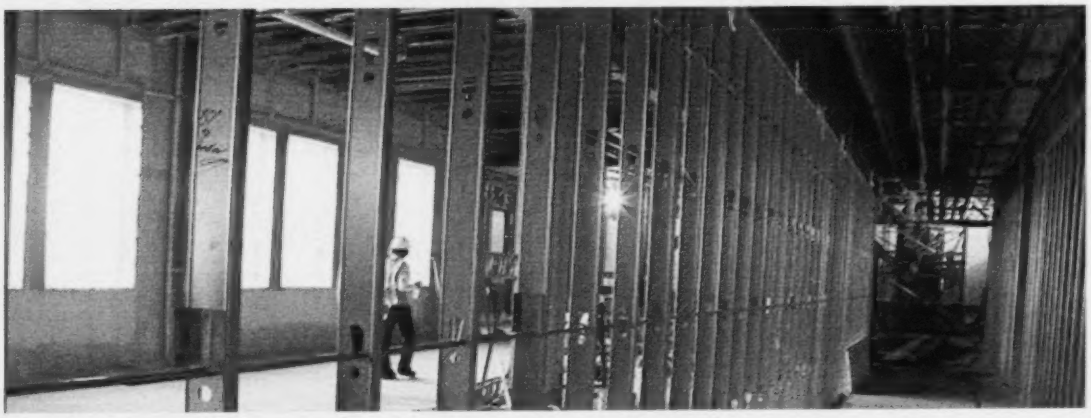
Together with Broadcast Services, Information and Technology Services (ITS) has co-ordinated everything from the acquisition of prebuilt AV and broadcast equipment to outfit the committee facility to the design of the facility itself.

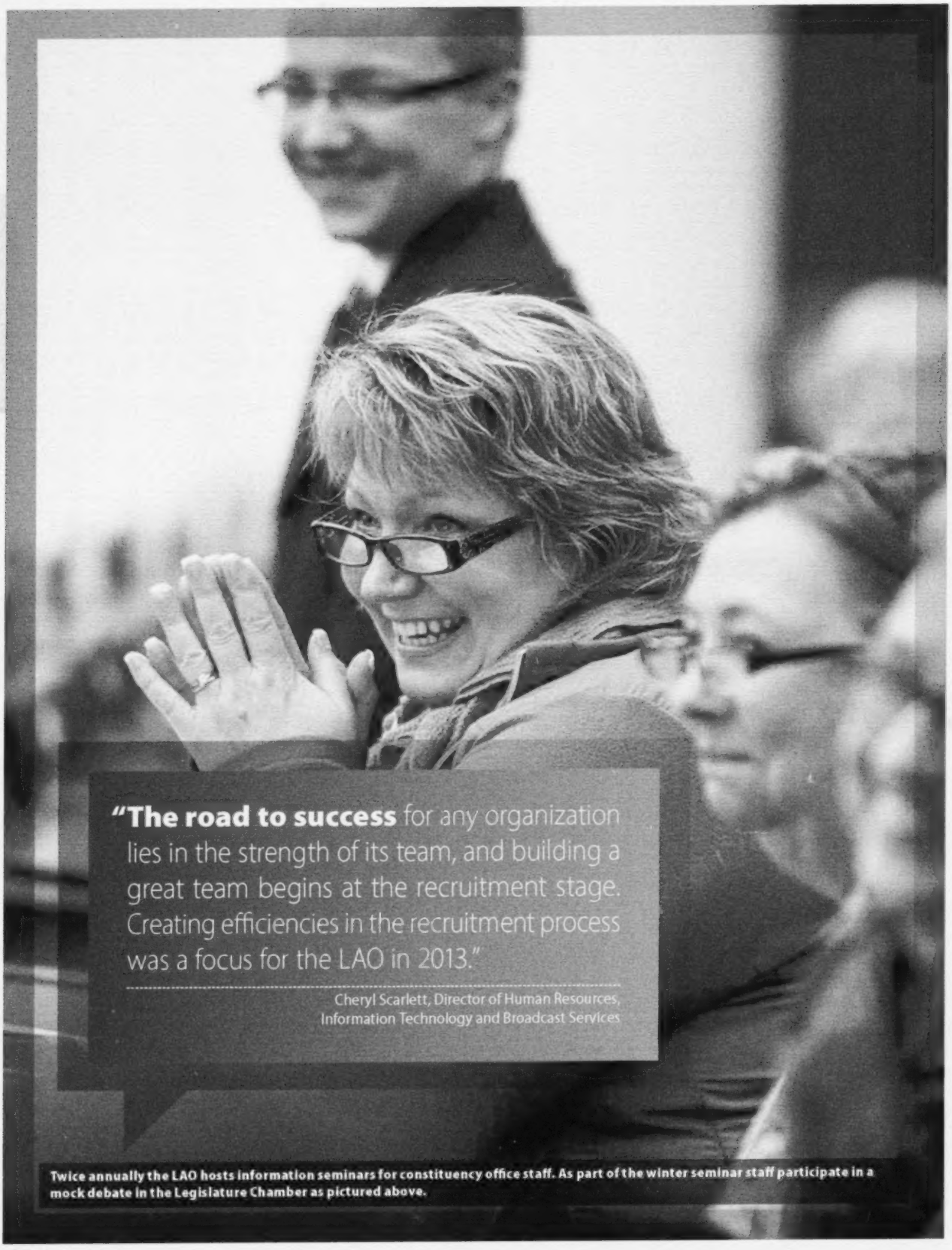
To better support our Members

In addition to the public spaces, the EFB will accommodate offices for several Members of the Legislative Assembly and their staff as well as the majority of LAO employees. The modern and efficient workspaces will better support our fast-paced and dynamic work environment, providing flexibility for our Members' ever-changing needs.

As with any move of this magnitude, a great deal of planning and logistical management has been required to co-ordinate the transfer of staff and office records. Heading up the LAO move, Financial Management and Administrative Services (FMAS) continues to liaise with a multitude of government and private organizations to ensure the space fits our varied needs.

Preparations, which began in 2008, will culminate in the relocation of staff between the spring and summer of 2015. As the move date inches closer, we begin to truly comprehend the immense impact the move will have on our operations. In addition to providing greater function, Al Chapman, Manager of Visitor Services, anticipates that the EFB will facilitate the creation of new stories and provide innovative ways to impart them to our public.

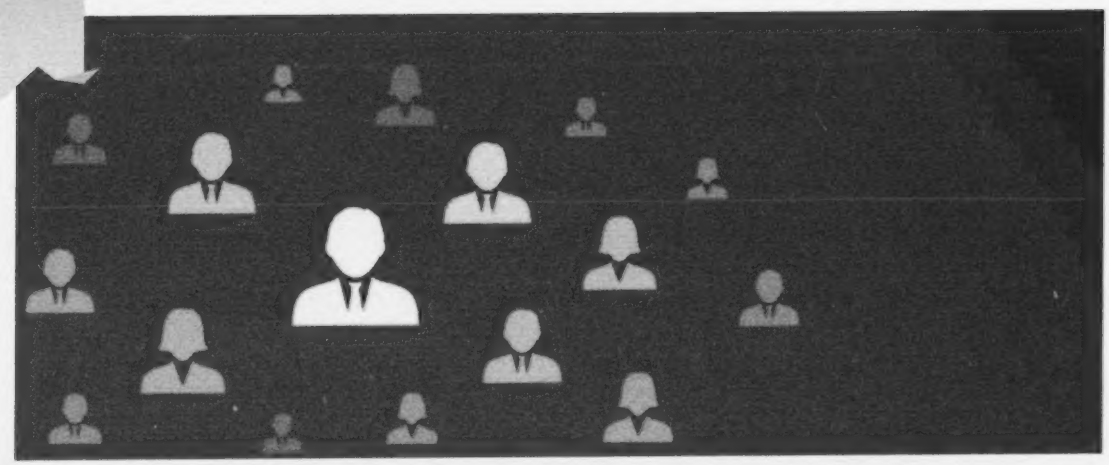




"The road to success for any organization lies in the strength of its team, and building a great team begins at the recruitment stage. Creating efficiencies in the recruitment process was a focus for the LAO in 2013."

Cheryl Scarlett, Director of Human Resources, Information Technology and Broadcast Services

Twice annually the LAO hosts information seminars for constituency office staff. As part of the winter seminar staff participate in a mock debate in the Legislature Chamber as pictured above.



Embracing Our Future | Enhanced Service Delivery

Striving to better support our Members and the citizens they serve, the LAO consistently evaluates and, where possible, improves its processes. Creating efficiencies in recruitment, embracing technology and furthering the parliamentary education of our citizens are examples of how we achieved these goals in 2013.

Employee development: A sound solution to workforce shortages

For the better part of a decade Alberta has experienced a wide-spread workforce shortage. One method used to manage this challenge is employee development. Looking to existing talent oftentimes proves more successful and always less time intensive. This is especially true with positions classified as difficult-to-fill, either because of their temporary duration or specialized nature.

Armed with an understanding of the LAO's unique organizational culture, current staff members often transition easily. In addition to being fiscally responsible, this strategy provides staff with growth opportunities that can lead to improved job engagement.

Recruitment strategies focus on reducing timelines from advertisement to offer

Certainly, situations arise when recruiting from within is not an option. Remaining competitive in this challenging employment market requires expediency during the recruitment process to lessen the possibility of losing candidates to other opportunities. In 2013 the LAO's recruitment strategies consciously focused on reducing timelines from advertisement to offer. While continuing to use a targeted approach, the HRS team consistently incorporated creative candidate pool sources.

Employing a technical approach ensures the right person for the job every time

Streamlining the processes used to reach eligible candidates is only half of the recruitment battle. The obvious next step is understanding what is required in order for an employee to succeed in a job, which is critical in building organizational effectiveness. In 2013 HRS formally introduced a competency framework to aid them in this process. In formalizing the competencies required for each position and by threading these competencies through advertisements, job profiles and interview plans, HRS was able to identify and select the best candidates. Building on our already strong team ensures success for the future.

Streaming of Assembly Online Becomes Mobile

Mobile devices have essentially become remote controls for our daily lives. They increase our ability to connect, communicate and share information quickly, making it easier to stay informed. In this epoch of immediacy "live" has redefined what it means to be "current." In 2013 the LAO's Information Technology Services (ITS) branch conducted a mobile systems pilot for live video streaming of session through Assembly Online. Following this success the project was expanded to include the audio streaming of committee proceedings. The upgraded web stream of House and committee activity now accommodates standard mobile platforms, including Apple, Android and BlackBerry devices.

Bringing the Legislative Assembly to mobile devices everywhere improves access to the parliamentary process in our province, ensuring Albertans keep current regarding important provincial issues.

Turning our gaze inward, the LAO also made improvements to keep our staff and Members connected.

LAO Moves to a Wireless Network

With the advent of the smart phone the virtual office has quickly become the rule rather than the exception. In 2013 the LAO further supported Members' and staff's connectivity needs with the institution of a wireless Internet program. Always in a state of transit between office and the House, Members are now connected, whether they are in the Legislature Building, the Legislature Annex or anywhere in between. Yes, the pedway is also wired. Considerably more involved than hooking up a wireless router as one might do at home, instituting wireless for the precincts required the customized design of a secure network.

Outfitting a century-old, stone-built heritage building with modern technology will always come with challenges. One of the more difficult aspects of the project was seamlessly merging wired and wireless technologies. The network design chosen takes advantage of leading-edge technology that will provide flexibility for future expansion. Led by ITS in cooperation with a third-party security consulting firm, this project will be expanded to provide wireless services to constituency offices in 2014. In supporting our Members' connectivity needs, we not only put them in touch with the resources they need to do their jobs but also increase their accessibility to the constituents whom they serve.

Val Rutherford, Manager of IT Planning & Development asserts that mobility is at the forefront of both the day-to-day operational needs and future planning initiatives for the LAO and further states, "The mobility landscape evolves at a rapid pace, and in response we continually review our processes in relation to technological advancements, looking for solutions that balance business needs and our security practices."

From connectivity to accessibility, so much of what we do revolves around the online world. In 2013, we increased the accessibility of House publications by participating in a project to create a nation-wide searchable database.

Over 362,000 parliamentary documents at your fingertips

Increasing Access to Parliamentary Documents

The daily business of the House is a reflection of the current state of affairs in the province, providing a snapshot into society at any given moment. Those looking to educate themselves on provincial matters can turn to any number of House resources, but government documents, in particular, have become increasingly accessible as of late.

The GALLOP (Government and Legislative Libraries Online Publications) portal went live across the country in 2013 and from planning to development to rollout, we were extensively involved in the cross-jurisdictional collaboration.

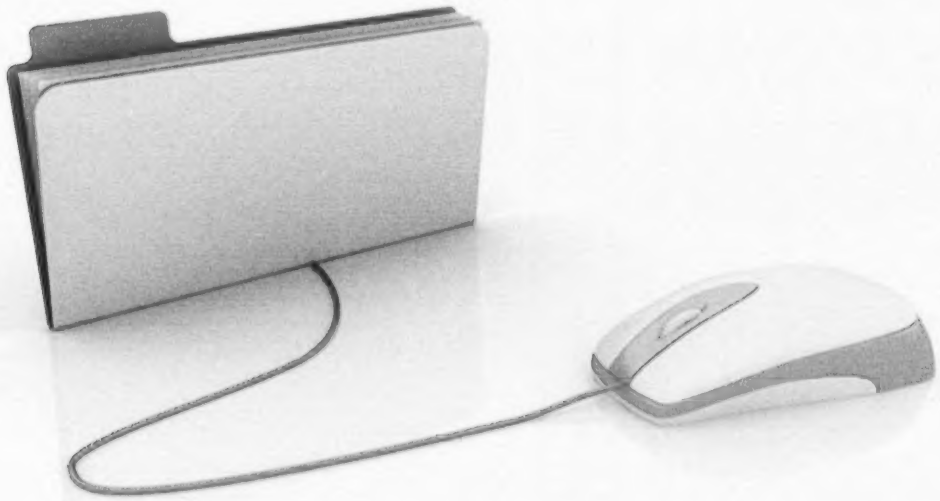
The portal is user-friendly and allows keyword searches of full text government documents from various parliamentary jurisdictions. Simply type in a topic and the results for a number of jurisdictions will appear. Take, for instance, seat belt safety. There are over 1,500 federal documents on this topic from the Canadian Parliament alone. In all, this sample search garnered over 2,468 results from across Canada.

In addition to the public, the portal also assists Legislature Library staff when researching the activities of other Canadian jurisdictions. Every day the Library fields public and internal queries alike on any number of topics.

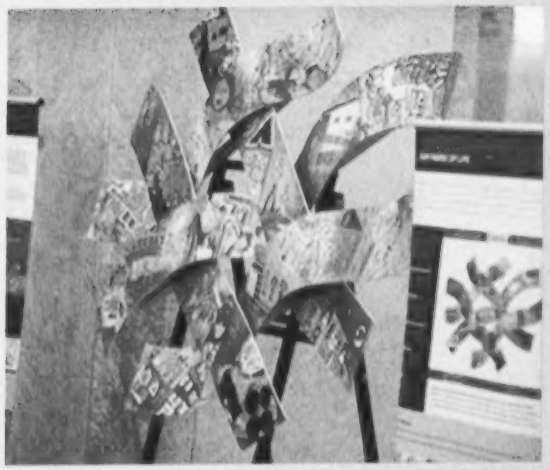
The GALLOP Portal was initially created to preserve access to the electronic government publications of participating jurisdictions, but it has become an essential tool for efficiently locating research and reports relating to key issues, public policy and legislation across the country. In addition to federal documents, the records of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta and nine other jurisdictions in Canada, including British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Québec, Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and the Northwest Territories, are also accessible.

The GALLOP portal is available through a link on the Alberta Legislature Library online catalogue. Consolidating materials captured and catalogued by legislative library staff from Legislatures across the country streamlines access to information, which, according to Legislature Librarian Valerie Footz, "Provides efficient retrieval for parliamentarians and, ultimately, facilitates public education, ensuring engaged and informed citizens."

From furthering our public education efforts to providing a workplace that functions on par with our efficient and dynamic team, success was achieved on many fronts in 2013, all of which were the result of hard work and ingenuity.



Featured Events



A Meaningful Life

A Meaningful Life is a collaborative art project between Calgary professional artist Jeff de Boer and 24 artists with developmental disabilities. The sculpture depicts original artworks that represent what constitutes a meaningful life for each artist.

On March 5, 2013, Speaker Zwozdesky welcomed the group and presented their sculpture in the Legislature rotunda, one of its first stops on its tour of the province.

"All Albertans have abilities and deserve to lead a purposeful life."

Speaker Zwozdesky

Chief Electoral Officer Farewell

On April 22, 2013, a celebration took place in honour of Brian Fjeldheim, who worked with Elections Alberta for over 20 years and was twice appointed to the role of Chief Electoral Officer.

"Mr. Fjeldheim has been steadfast in ensuring the integrity of his post and the fairness of Alberta's electoral process."

Speaker Zwozdesky

Alberta Legislature Centennial Time Capsule

On Wednesday, September 25, 2013, with the placement of the Alberta Legislature Centennial Time Capsule the year-long centenary celebrations came to a fitting close.

Albertans were invited to watch the placement ceremony live on the Assembly's website. The event also featured the recognition of eight Alberta students whose letters to the future were chosen to be included amongst the time capsule's contents.

Over 50 items significant to our province, all of which represent various aspects of today's Alberta: its people, traditions and culture, were placed in the time capsule. Each item was carefully preserved for safekeeping, to be discovered by future Albertans on the bicentennial of the Legislature Building, in 2112.

Along with the Honourable Wayne Drysdale, Minister of Infrastructure, the Honourable Speaker Zwozdesky participated in the placement of the time capsule into its rightful place behind the cornerstone of the Alberta Legislature Building as special guests looked on.

"In 1909 Alberta MLAs had the foresight to place this time capsule ... giving us a peek into our past. It is now our responsibility to continue this tradition of honouring and preserving significant elements of our province and sharing them with Albertans of the future."

Speaker Zwozdesky

Diwali

On October 29, 2013, for the first time in its history the Legislative Assembly of Alberta celebrated Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. Light plays an important role in the Hindu religion as it symbolizes understanding, knowledge and ultimately enlightenment.

Diwali is one of the most auspicious occasions in the South Asian culture.

There are approximately 24,000 people of Hindu denomination in Alberta.

Speaker Zwozdesky hosted the Diwali celebration in the Legislature rotunda, and the event included performances by young students of the South Asian Arts Movement Society.

"Alberta is a diverse, culturally rich province, and I am delighted to now count the festival of lights among the myriad of cultural celebrations held at the Alberta Legislature."

Speaker Zwozdesky

Comparative Statistics

House and Committee Proceedings	2013	2012	2011
Sitting Days	49	50	47
Bills Introduced	39	30	42
Petitions Presented	19	5	23
Tablings	801	671	653
Session and Committee Hours	472	408*	341
Committee Meetings	103	69	62

*Revised Total (previously reported as 283)

House and Committee Proceedings Documentation	2013	2012	2011
Hansard Pages	2,070	2,128	1,726
Journals Pages	615	508	460

Legislative Assembly Website Activity	2013	2012	2011
Visits	1,015,242	928,448	661,972
Visitors	588,097	491,698	364,114
Average Hits per Day	2,721	2,518	1,813

Computer and Network Equipment	2013	2012	2011
Workstations	407	376	375
Printers	272	265	207
Servers	25	52	53
Laptops	350	303	255
Mobile Devices	391	350	272
Training Days	n/a	117	124
Printer Multifunction	123		

Supplies Processing	2013	2012	2011
Direct Purchase Orders Issued	49	50	49
MLA Purchase Orders Processed	1,675	9,475	4,250
Special Requests Processed	360	512	391
Supplies Orders Processed – Online Ordering System	187	0	739
Supplies Orders Processed – Manual	65	162	65

Office Administration	2013	2012	2011
Constituency Offices, Moved	5	28	0
Constituency Offices, New	1	8	0
Constituency Offices, Closed	1	1	1
Leases Processed (New or Renewals)	21	61	8
Telecommunications Services Installed or Moved	109	306	44
Telecommunications – Service Requests	400	1,560	456

Information and Records Management	2013	2012	2011
Boxed Records for Approved Disposition – Constituency/MLA	25	406	120
Boxed Records for Storage – LAO	2	71	113
Boxed Records for Approved Disposition – LAO	7	10	163
Boxed Records for Approved Disposition – Other	0	80	0

Financial Services	2013	2012	2011
Invoices Coded and Data Entered	16,925	17,533	17,539
Payments Issued	10,456	11,610	12,290
Items Evaluated for Compliance	57	78	87

Note: Financial statistics are based on the fiscal year April 1, 2012 - March 31, 2013

Employee Compensation	2013	2012	2011
Contracts Processed	575	634	441
Total Commencements	189	330	208
Total Terminations	155	269	157
Payroll Transactions	12,825	12,435	12,995

Gift Shop Sales	2013	2012	2011
Public Sales	104,499	99,202	92,334
MLA Sales	269,709	240,989	264,904

Note: Gift Shop sales based on the calendar year

Visitor Statistics	2013	2012	2011
Attended Special Events	80,087	71,503	73,883
Participated in Programs	19,161	19,500	20,236
Observed Session	9,158	7,620	7,245
Participated in Tours	38,763	44,477	44,898

Library Reference Transactions by Client Category	2013	2012	2011
Members and LAO	1,365	1,417	1,189
Alberta Government	309	238	291
Media	44	64	58
Public	839	881	959
Total	**2,557**	**2,600**	**2,497**

Library Online Catalogue Use	2013	2012	2011
Number of Times the Online Catalogue was Accessed	11,211	9,349	8,669
Number of Searches Conducted in the Online Catalogue	25,686	23,295	21,498

Financial Statements |
for the year ended March 31, 2013

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AUDITOR GENERAL
Alberta

To the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Report on the Financial Statements

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Legislative Assembly Office, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2013, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Legislative Assembly Office as at March 31, 2013, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

[Original signed by Merwan N. Saher]
FCA
Auditor General
Edmonton, Alberta
July 25, 2013

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2013 (in thousands)

	2013	2012
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	$29,060	$36,287
Accounts receivable and advances	402	332
Inventory held for resale	128	163
	29,590	36,782
Capital assets (Note 4)	3,411	2,945
	$33,001	**$39,727**
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$3,518	$2,038
Vacation pay liability	1,613	1,455
	5,131	3,493
Members' transition allowance liability (Note 6)	17,243	29,748
Net assets	10,627	6,486
	$33,001	**$39,727**

Contractual obligations and contingent liabilities (Notes 9 and 10)

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Changes In Net Assets

As at March 31, 2013 (in thousands)

	2013	2012
Net assets (liabilities) at beginning of year	$6,486	$6,707
Net operating results	(56,755)	(52,758)
Net financing provided from (for) general revenues	60,896	52,537
Net assets at end of year	**$10,627**	**$6,486**

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Operations

Year ended March 31, 2013 (in thousands)

	2013 BUDGET	2013 ACTUAL	2012 ACTUAL
REVENUES			
Gift shop sales, services and fees	$306	$430	$331
Other	–	179	64
	306	609	395
EXPENSES			
Voted:			
Alberta member	171	12	116
Caucus contingency funding	525	-	–
Federal Building Redevelopment Project	439	-	–
Financial management and administrative services	1,425	1,334	1,254
Government Members' services	3,935	2,961	2,932
House services	7,361	5,980	5,502
Human resource services	1,849	1,569	1,191
Independent Member's services - Dr. Sherman, MLA	-	-	41
Information technology services	4,402	5,176	4,583
Legislative committees	2,851	282	2,020
Legislature library	2,726	2,354	2,209
MLA Administration	34,113	31,208	29,307
MLA Compensation Review	-	169	388
NDP Opposition services	588	731	556
Office of the Speaker	576	552	549
Liberal Opposition services	1,606	859	1,382
Visitor Services	2,259	2,133	1,766
Official Opposition services (Wildrose Opposition)	588	2,153	531
	65,414	57,473	54,327
VALUATION ADJUSTMENTS:			
Capitalization of assets expensed as supplies (Note 3b)	–	(1,880)	(1,391)
Amortization of capital assets (Note 3b)	–	1,414	1,029
Provision for (reduction in) member's transition allowance liability (Note 6)	–	194	(882)
Provision for (reduction in) vacation pay liability	–	158	108
Net consumption of inventory	–	35	(8)
Provision for premium adjustment deposit account	–	(30)	(30)
	–	(109)	(1,174)
	65,414	57,364	53,153
NET OPERATING RESULTS	**($65,108)**	**($56,755)**	**($52,758)**

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended March 31, 2013 (In thousands)

	2013	2012
OPERATING TRANSACTIONS		
Net operating results	($56,755)	($52,758)
Add non-cash charges:		
Amortization of capital assets	1,414	1,029
Increase in vacation pay liability	158	88
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable and advances	(70)	27
Decrease (increase) in inventory	35	(8)
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,480	(369)
Decrease (increase) in transition allowance liability	(12,505)	3,028
Cash used by operating transactions	(66,243)	(48,963)
CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS:		
Acquisition of capital assets	(1,880)	(1,391)
FINANCING TRANSACTIONS:		
Net transfer from general revenues	60,896	52,537
Net cash provided	(7,227)	2,183
Cash, beginning of year	36,287	34,104
Cash, end of year	**$29,060**	**$36,287**

The accompanying notes and schedules are part of these financial statements.

Schedule 1
Expenses – Directly Incurred
Detailed by Object

Year ended March 31, 2013

	2013		2012
	BUDGET (Note 8)	ACTUAL	ACTUAL
EXPENSES			
Salaries, wages and employer contributions	$27,275	$24,826	$22,742
Supplies and services	19,428	16,159	14,419
Grants	7	2	2
Payments to MLAs and Executive Council	18,704	16,486	17,164
	$65,414	**$57,473**	**$54,327**

Schedule 2
Salary and Benefits Disclosure

Year ended March 31, 2013	2013				2012
	Base Salary[1]	Other Cash Benefits[2]	Other Non-cash Benefits[3]	Total	Total
SENIOR OFFICIAL					
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly [4]	$275,160	$15,814	$53,175	$344,149	$335,325
SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM					
Senior Parliamentary Counsel and Director of House Services	195,516	-	60,365	255,881	245,149
Law Clerk and Director of Interparliamentary Relations	195,516	4,495	60,440	260,451	237,384
Director of Human Resources, Information Technology & Broadcast Services	192,888	11,085	56,459	260,432	232,379
Director of Financial Management and Administrative Services and Senior Financial Officer	145,668	2,791	39,707	188,166	172,562
Director of Visitor, Ceremonial, & Security Services and Sergeant-At-Arms	143,280	-	38,851	182,131	169,607
Legislature Librarian	120,360	-	30,870	151,230	141,417
Clerk Assistant and Director of House Services [5]	-	-	-	-	1,628

[1] Base salary includes pensionable base pay.

[2] Other cash benefits include vacation payouts and lump sum payments. There were no bonuses paid in 2013.

[3] Other non-cash benefits include the Legislative Assembly Office's share of all employee benefits and contributions or payments made on behalf of employees including pension, supplementary retirement plans, health care, dental coverage, group life insurance, short and long term disability plans, WCB premiums, professional memberships and tuition fees.

[4] Automobile provided; no dollar amount included in other non-cash benefits.

[5] This position became vacant on January 14, 2011 upon the retirement of the former incumbent. The title and duties of Director of House Services are now included with the Senior Parliamentary Counsel as noted.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended March 31, 2013

NOTE 1 **Authority**

The Legislative Assembly Office (the "Office") is operated under the authority of the *Legislative Assembly Act*. Annual operating budgets are approved by the Special Standing Committee on Members' Services.

NOTE 2 **Purpose**

Within the traditions of parliamentary democracy as constitutionally established in Alberta, the Legislative Assembly Office will:

1. Support the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly in carrying out the duties of office.
2. Support Members by providing services, advice, information and infrastructure required to carry out their roles as elected representatives.
3. Record the proceedings and maintain and preserve the records of the Legislative Assembly.
4. Inform and educate the public on behalf of Members and the institution of Parliament.
5. Provide a positive, productive, healthy and secure environment for Members and staff of the Assembly.
6. Support the Assembly in protecting its institutions and privileges.
7. Support the exchange of ideas/information among Parliaments.
8. Build partnerships with external clients in support of the institution of Parliament.

NOTE 3 **Summary of Significant Accounting Policies and Reporting Practices**

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

a) Reporting Entity

The reporting entity is the Legislative Assembly Office, for which the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly is responsible.

The Office operates within the General Revenue Fund (the "Fund"). The Fund is administrated by the President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance. All cash receipts of the Office are deposited into the Fund and all cash disbursements made by the Office are paid from the Fund. Net financing provided from (for) General Revenues is the difference between all cash receipts and all cash disbursements made.

b) Basis of Financial Reporting

Revenues

All revenues are reported on the accrual basis of accounting.

Expenses

Expenses represent the costs of resources consumed during the year in the Office's operations.

Valuation Adjustments

Valuation adjustments include changes in the valuation allowances used to reflect assets at their net recoverable or other appropriate value. Valuation adjustments also represent the change in management's estimate of future payments arising from obligations relating to vacation pay and transition allowance.

Assets

Financial assets of the Office are limited to financial claims such as cash, advances to and accounts receivable from other organizations, employees and other individuals.

Inventory held for resale is reported at the lower of cost and net realizable value.

Tangible capital assets of the Office are recorded at cost and amortized on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. An asset is deemed a capital item if its invoiced cost is $5,000 (or greater) per item or if an assembly of connected components makes a whole asset (inclusive of labour, shipping, consulting, etc). The amortization periods are as follows:

Computer hardware and software	3 years
Other equipment	5 years
Furniture	10 years

The Office follows government budgetary practices that allow funds from an operating budget to be used to purchase tangible capital assets. These purchases are included in expenses on the statement of operations but are then removed from expenses through a valuation adjustment and are capitalized and amortized over their useful lives.

The fair value of cash and accounts receivable and advances are estimated to approximate their carrying values.

Liabilities

Liabilities include all financial claims payable by the Office at fiscal year end.

The Members' transition allowance is estimated based on Members' years of service and their most recent remuneration amounts. The annual charge is the amount that is estimated to have been earned by Members during the year.

The fair values of accounts payable and accrued liabilities, and Members' transition allowance are estimated to approximate their carrying values.

Net Assets

Net assets represent the difference between the carrying values of assets held by the Office and its liabilities.

Canadian public sector accounting standards require a "net debt" presentation for the statement of financial position in the summary financial statements of governments. Net debt presentation reports the difference between financial assets and liabilities as "net debt" or "net financial assets" as an indicator of the future revenues required to pay for past transactions and events. The Office operates within the government reporting entity and does not finance its expenditures by independently raising revenues. Accordingly, these financial statements do not report a net debt indicator.

NOTE 4 **Tangible Capital Assets (in thousands)**

	Furniture	Computer hardware and software		2013 Total	2012 Total
Estimated Useful Life	10 years	3 years	5 years		
HISTORICAL COST					
Beginning of Year	$3,226	$2,028	$3,725	$8,979	$7,896
Additions	88	938	854	1,880	1,391
Disposals	-	(276)	-	(276)	(308)
	$3,314	$2,690	$4,579	$10,583	$8,979
ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION					
Beginning of Year	$2,432	$1,987	$1,615	$6,034	$5,313
Amortization Expense	228	338	848	1,414	1,029
Effect of Disposals	-	(276)	-	(276)	(308)
	$2,660	$2,049	$2,463	$7,172	$6,034
Net Book Value at March 31, 2013	**$654**	**$641**	**$2,116**	**$3,411**	-
Net Book Value at March 31, 2012	**$794**	**$41**	**$2,110**		**$2,945**

The Office does not apply the half year rule to any assets purchased during the fiscal year.

NOTE 5 **Expenses Incurred by Alberta Infrastructure (in thousands)**

The Office had the following transaction with Alberta Infrastructure for which no consideration was exchanged. The amount for this transaction is estimated based on the actual costs incurred by Alberta Infrastructure to provide the service. The estimated cost for the service is $3,656 for 12.050 usable m^2 (2012 - $3,403).

NOTE 6 **Members' Transition Allowance Liability (in thousands)**

The Office implemented a Members' transition allowance on October 1, 1998. The provisions of the allowance were established in accordance with the Members' Allowances Order (RMSC 1992, c. M-1, as amended, Section 9).

A transition allowance is paid to every Member at the time of dissolution of the Legislature unless they are re-elected in the next election. Members who resign their seats are also eligible for the allowance.

Under section 9, the amount paid for service commencing on or after March 20, 1989, is determined by multiplying three months salary, based on the average monthly salary for the three calendar years in which the person received their highest salary, by the number of years the person served as a Member on or after March 20, 1989. "Salary" is defined in section 9(1). For service periods prior to March 20, 1989, the allowance is calculated by multiplying the highest rate of a Member's monthly indemnity and expense allowances for one month for every year of service prior to March 20, 1989 with no restrictions. There is no credit for years of service for which the Member has previously received a payment under Section 9 or the predecessor section. Eligible recipients may elect to be paid the allowance over a period of up to four years.

In the event of death of an active Member, a transition allowance equivalent to the amount owed at passing is paid to the Member's estate.

	2013	2012
Liability at beginning of year	$29,748	$26,721
Total transition allowance payments	(12,699)	(816)
Total transition allowance expense	194	3,843
Liability at end of year	**$17,243**	**$29,748**
Voted expense	$0	$4,725
Valuation adjustment	194	(882)
Total transition allowance expense	**$194**	**$3,843**

Changes were made to the allowance effective April 23, 2012. Members will no longer receive credit for service after April 22, 2012. However, any amounts owed to Members for prior service, up to April 22, 2012, will be paid in the future when they cease to be a Member.

NOTE 7 **Defined Benefit Plans (in thousands)**

The Office participates in the following multi-employer pension plans: Management Employees Pension Plan and Public Service Pension Plan. The Office also participates in the multi-employer Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers. The expense for these pension plans is equivalent to the annual contributions of $2,176 for the year ending March 31, 2013 (2012 - $1,773).

At December 31, 2012, the Management Employees Pension Plan reported a deficiency of $303,423 (2011 – deficiency of $517,726) and the Public Service Pension Plan reported a deficiency of $1,645,141 (2011 – deficiency of $1,790,383). At December 31, 2012, the Supplementary Retirement Plan for Public Service Managers had a deficiency of $51,870 (2011 - deficiency of $53,489).

The Office also participates in two multi-employer Long Term Disability Income Continuance Plans. At March 31, 2013, the Bargaining Unit Plan reported an actuarial surplus of $51,717 (2012 – surplus of $9,136) and the Management, Opted Out and Excluded Plan an actuarial surplus of $18,327 (2012 – surplus of $10,454). The expense for these two plans is limited to the employer's annual contributions for the year.

NOTE 8 **Budget (in thousands)**

EXPENSES:	
2012-2013 budget[a]	$65,414
2012-2013 actual expenses (excluding valuation adjustments)	(57,473)
2012-2013 unexpended (excluding valuation adjustments)	**$7,941**

[a] 2012-2013 Offices of the Legislative Assembly Estimates, presented February 24, 2012.

NOTE 9 **Contractual Obligations (in thousands)**

The aggregate amounts payable in 2014 for unexpired contracts is as follows:

	2014	2013
Leased properties	$2,082	$1,700
Office equipment rentals	289	350
Consulting	665	373
	$3,036	$2,423

NOTE 10 **Contingent Liabilities (in thousands)**

At March 31, 2013 the Office is a defendant in one legal claim (2012 – one). The specified amount is $450 (2012 - $450). The Office has been named jointly with another entity in this legal claim.

The resulting loss, if any, from this claim cannot be determined.

NOTE 11 **Approval of Financial Statements**

These financial statements were approved by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Alberta Branch

President's Report

"Public confidence rests in a parliamentary system that is both accountable and transparent."

Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, president of the Alberta branch of the CPA and 12th Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta

In 2013 I was pleased to host the 51st Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Canadian Regional Conference, bringing together parliamentarians and clerks from across Canada and abroad, including India, the British Virgin Islands and from as far afield as Tasmania.

The conference provided relevant business sessions covering a plethora of topics, including technology, private Members' business, representation by women and labour market trends. The ensuing discussions were engaging and dynamic. A particularly resonant presentation was delivered by our own George Rogers, Deputy Speaker. Mr. Rogers discussed the recent move by the Alberta Legislative Assembly to publicly report Members' expenses, an initiative that I highly support.

The all-party Special Standing Committee on Members' Services, which I chair, approves the measures governing financial and personnel administration for Members of the Legislative Assembly. Members' expenses fall within this purview and the topic of publicly reporting Members expenses was the source of rousing debate not that long ago.

Public confidence rests in a parliamentary system that is both accountable and transparent. The principle of accountability stipulates that representatives are responsible to the electorate for their decisions and actions. Transparency further specifies that the decisions and actions of the representatives must be open to public access and scrutiny. As stewards, we MLAs are responsible for the proper and efficient allocation of public funds and, so, in November of 2012 the Members' Services Committee adopted a policy on MLA expense reporting and disclosure. This policy would see authorized expenditures related to accommodation, meals, hosting and travel that have been approved for reimbursement by the Legislative Assembly Office disclosed 30 days following the conclusion of each quarter. The first set of reports was posted to the Legislative Assembly website at assembly.ab.ca on April 30, 2013. This move is in line with Legislatures across Canada and goes a long way towards demonstrating a commitment by the Members of Alberta's Legislative Assembly to maintain the public trust.

The CPA Canadian Regional Conference provided a wonderful opportunity for the LAO and participating Members of the Alberta Legislative Assembly to showcase our province and to highlight our Legislative Assembly's processes and procedures.

Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, president of the Alberta branch of the CPA and 12th Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Secretary's Report

"Conferences encourage co-operation and dialogue, the starting points for meaningful partnerships and progress . . ."

W.J. David McNeil, Secretary of the Alberta branch of the CPA and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta

We are fundamentally social creatures. Learning from the experiences of others and improving upon their processes are evolutionary imperatives, also referred to as social learning.

Parliamentary conferences bring Legislators and presiding officers together to network, to discuss issues of common concern and to learn from each other. This year 17 conferences and seminars were attended by our Members, and the networking and collaboration at each proved invaluable to their development as parliamentarians.

I attended the 30th Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference between January 31 and February 3, where discussions spanned several topics, including the future of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). The CPA has been a voice for parliamentary democracy across the Commonwealth for close to a century. During conferences global political issues and developments in the parliamentary system are examined in-depth. Delegates focus on making meaningful contributions to the creation of sensible parliamentary practices and effective policies. Over the course of a few days, we share experiences and glean new perspectives; we foster friendships and meaningful partnerships. Face-to-face communication may have taken a back seat in society, but it continues to thrive in parliamentary circles, where learning from others is the primary form of instruction. The CPA is relevant today and will persevere into the future.

Interparliamentary relations also extend growth opportunities to staff. In July the LAO was called upon to host the largest annual parliamentary conference in Canada, the CPA Canadian Regional Conference. The branches of the LAO came together to co-ordinate the sizeable event and staff, that otherwise wouldn't, experienced our organization's parliamentary role. They also received valuable insight into the workings of each branch.

In essence, conferences become large-scale team-building exercises. Whether you look at it from the perspective of a legislator or that of a staff member, the opportunity to learn from others is priceless, social learning at its best.

W.J. David McNeil, Secretary of the Alberta branch of the CPA and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta

Bursaries

Bursaries are presented annually to nominees from TUXIS Parliament of Alberta and the Alberta Girls' Parliament to increase interest in the parliamentary process amoung young Albertans.

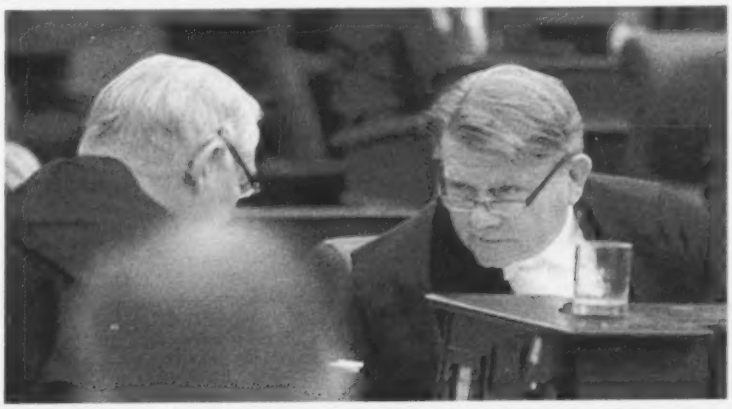
Recipients:

TUXIS Parliament of Alberta

- Vicki Kerr, Wetaskiwin-Camrose

Alberta Girls' Parliament

- Danielle Gervais, Calgary-Currie
- Victoria Hoffman, Calgary-Lougheed



Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

PC (to 7/16/2013)
IND (from 7/16/2013)

Mike Allen
Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo

PC

Moe Amery
Calgary-East

W

Rob Anderson
Airdrie

Official Opposition House Leader

W

Joe Anglin
Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre

Official Opposition Whip (from 4/1/2013)

W

Drew Barnes
Cypress-Medicine Hat

PC

Honourable Naresh Bhardwaj
Edmonton-Ellerslie

Associate Minister of Services for Persons with Disabilities (from 12/15/2013)

PC

Honourable Manmeet S. Bhullar
Calgary-Greenway

Minister of Service Alberta (to 12/15/2013)
Minister of Human Services (from 12/15/2013)

W

Gary Bikman
Cardston-Taber-Warner

ND

Deron Bilous
Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview

AL

Laurie Blakeman
Edmonton-Centre

Liberal Opposition House Leader

PC

Neil Brown, QC
Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill

PC

Pearl Calahasen
Lesser Slave Lake

PC

Honourable Robin Campbell
West Yellowhead

Minister of Aboriginal Relations (to 12/15/2013)
Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (from 12/15/2013)
Deputy Government House Leader (to 12/15/2013)
Government House Leader (from 12/15/2013)

PC

Wayne Cao
Calgary-Fort

PC

Ron Casey
Banff-Cochrane

Members of the 28th Legislative Assembly | Alberta Branch

PC

Honourable Christine Cusanelli

Calgary-Currie

Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation (to 2/4/2013)

PC

Honourable Cal Dallas

Red Deer-South

Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations

PC

Alana DeLong

Calgary-Bow

PC

Honourable Jonathan Denis, QC

Calgary-Acadia

Minister of Justice and Solicitor General
Deputy Government House Leader

W

Ian Donovan

Little Bow

PC

David C. Dorward

Edmonton-Gold Bar

Deputy Government Whip (from 9/5/2013)

PC

Honourable Wayne Drysdale

Grande Prairie-Wapiti

Minister of Infrastructure (to 12/13/2013)
Minister of Transportation (from 12/13/2013)

ND

David Eggen

Edmonton-Calder

ND Opposition Whip

PC

Honourable Kyle Fawcett

Calgary-Klein

Associate Minister of Finance (to 6/25/2013)
Associate Minister of Regional Recovery and Reconstruction for Southwest Alberta (from 6/25/2013)

PC

Jacquie Fenske

Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville

W

Heather Forsyth

Calgary-Fish Creek

W

Rod Fox

Lacombe-Ponoka

PC

Honourable Rick Fraser

Calgary-South East

Associate Minister of Regional Recovery and Reconstruction for High Rives (from 6/25/2013)
Associate Minister of Public Safety (from 12/13/2013)

PC

Yvonne Fritz

Calgary-Cross

PC

Hector Goudreau

Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

PC

Honourable Doug Griffiths

Battle River-Wainwright

Minister of Municipal Affairs (to 12/13/2013)
Minister of Service Alberta (from 12/13/2013)

W

Jason Hale

Strathmore-Brooks

PC

Honourable Dave Hancock, QC

Edmonton-Whitemud

Minister of Human Services (to 12/13/2013)
Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education (from 12/13/2013)
Government House Leader (to 12/11/2013)
Deputy Premier (from 12/13/2013)

AL

Kent Hehr

Calgary-Buffalo

PC

Honourable Fred Horne

Edmonton-Rutherford

Minister of Health

PC

Honourable Doug Horner

Spruce Grove-St. Albert

President of Treasury Board
Minister of Finance

PC

Honourable Ken Hughes

Calgary-West

Minister of Energy (to 12/13/2013)
Minister of Municipal Affairs (from 12/13/2013)

PC

Mary Anne Jablonski

Red Deer-North

Deputy Chair of Committees

PC

Honourable Sandra Jansen

Calgary-North West

Associate Minister of Family and Community Safety (from 8/1/2013)
Deputy Government Whip (7/18/2013 to 9/3/2015)

PC

Matt Jeneroux

Edmonton-South West

PC

Honourable Jeff Johnson

Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater

Minister of Education
Ministerial Liaison to the Canadian Forces
(from 12/13/2013)

PC

Linda Johnson

Calgary-Glenmore

AL

Darshan Kang

Calgary-McCall

Liberal Opposition Whip

PC

Honourable Donna Kennedy-Glans, QC

Calgary-Varsity

Associate Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy (from 12/13/2013)

PC

Honourable Stephen Khan

St. Albert

Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education (to 2/4/2015)

Members of the 28th Legislative Assembly | Alberta Branch

PC

Honourable Heather Klimchuk

Edmonton-Glenora

Minister of Culture

PC

Maureen Kubinec

Barrhead-Morinville-Westlock

PC

Ken Lemke

Stony Plain

PC

Genia Leskiw

Bonnyville-Cold Lake

PC

Jason Luan

Calgary-Hawkwood

PC

Honourable Thomas Lukaszuk

Edmonton-Castle Downs

Ministerial Liaison to the Canadian Forces (to 12/13/2013)
Minister of Jobs, Skills, Training and Labour (from 12/13/2013)
Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education (2/4/2013 to 12/13/2013)
Deputy Premier (to 12/13/2013)

ND

Brian Mason

Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood

Leader of the ND Opposition

W

Bruce McAllister

Chestermere-Rocky View

Official Opposition Deputy Whip (to 4/1/2013)

PC

Everett McDonald

Grande Prairie-Smoky

PC

Honourable Ric McIver

Calgary-Hays

Minister of Transportation (to 12/13/2013)
Minister of Infrastructure (from 12/13/2013)
Deputy Government House Leader

PC

Honourable Diana McQueen

Drayton Valley-Devon

Minister of Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (to 12/13/2013)
Minister of Energy (from 12/13/2013)

ND

Rachel Notley

Edmonton-Strathcona

ND Opposition House Leader

PC

Honourable Frank Oberle

Peace River

Associate Minister of Services for Persons with Disabilities (to 12/13/2013)
Minister of Aboriginal Relations (from 12/13/2013)
Deputy Government House Leader (from 12/13/2013)

PC

Cathy Olesen

Sherwood Park

PC

Honourable Verlyn Olson, QC

Wetaskiwin-Camrose

Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
Deputy Government House Leader (from 12/13/2013)

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

PC

Bridget A. Pastoor

Lethbridge-East

W

Blake Pedersen

Medicine Hat

PC

Sohail Quadri

Edmonton-Mill Woods

PC

Honourable Dave Quest

Strathcona-Sherwood Park

Associate Minister of Seniors (from 12/11/2013)

PC

Honourable Alison Redford, QC

Calgary-Elbow

Premier
President of Executive Council

PC

Honourable Dave Rodney

Calgary-Lougheed

Associate Minister of Wellness

PC

George Rogers

Leduc-Beaumont

Deputy Speaker
Chair of Committees

W

Bruce Rowe

Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills

PC (to 5/14/2013)
IND (5/14/2013 to 12/5/2013)
PC (from 12/5/2013)

Peter Sandhu

Edmonton-Manning

PC

Janice Sarich

Edmonton-Decore

W

Shayne Saskiw

Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills

Official Opposition Deputy House Leader

PC

Honourable Donald Scott, QC

Fort McMurray-Conklin

Associate Minister of Accountability, Transparency and Transformation

AL

Raj Sherman

Edmonton-Meadowlark

Leader of the Liberal Opposition

W

Danielle Smith

Highwood

Leader of the Official Opposition

PC

Honourable Richard Starke

Vermilion-Lloydminster

Minister of Tourism, Parks and Recreation (from 3/4/2013)

Members of the 28th Legislative Assembly | Alberta Branch

W

Pat Stier
Livingstone-Macleod

W

Rick Strankman
Drumheller-Stettler

AL

David Swann
Calgary-Mountain View

W

Kerry Towle
Innisfail-Sylvan Lake

Official Opposition Whip (to 4/1/2013)
Official Opposition Deputy Whip (from 4/1/2013)

PC

Honourable George VanderBurg
Whitecourt-Ste. Anne

Associate Minister of Seniors (to 12/13/2013)
Government Whip (from 12/13/2013)

PC

Honourable Greg Weadick
Lethbridge-West

Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs (to 6/25/2013)
Associate Minister of Regional Recovery and Reconstruction for Southeast Alberta (from 6/25/2013)

PC

Len Webber
Calgary-Foothills

W

Jeff Wilson
Calgary-Shaw

PC

Honourable Teresa Woo-Paw
Calgary-Northern Hills

Associate Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations

PC

David H. Xiao
Edmonton-McClung

PC

Steve Young
Edmonton-Riverview

Government Whip (to 12/13/2013)

PC

Honourable Gene Zwozdesky
Edmonton-Mill Creek

Speaker

Professional Development Conferences

30th Canadian Presiding Officers' Conference

Victoria, British Columbia | January 31 – February 3, 2013

Delegates

Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, *Speaker, MLA, Edmonton-Mill Creek*
Dr. David McNeil, *Clerk of the Assembly*

Agenda

- Updates from "new" Speakers – round-table
- The role of the Speaker at the opening of parliament under a minority government
- Responding to an audit
- Transparency and accountability in disclosing Members' expenses
- Jurisdictional updates
- The provincial Black Rod: Developing a "new" tradition
- The CPA today – Will there be a tomorrow?
- Benchmarking: Standards for parliament

Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Outreach Program

Québec City, Québec | March 20 – 23, 2013

Delegate

Bridget Pastoor, *MLA, Lethbridge-East*

Agenda

- Training session by Groupe Femmes, Politique et Démocratie: Le mentorat en politique (Mentoring in politics)
- Meeting with members of the working group of elected women officials of the Assembly of First Nations of Québec and Labrador – Testimonies and discussions with elected aboriginal women
- Lunch and learn with women journalists from the Québec Parliamentary Press Gallery
- Femmes journalistes, femmes parlementaires: Comparaisons et interactions (Women journalists, women parliamentarians: Comparisons and interactions)

Delegate Report

The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) outreach program included participants from Québec, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Prince Edward Island and a women's working group of elected officers of the Assembly of First Nations for Québec and Labrador.

The session on mentoring in politics was facilitated by Elaine Hemond, founder of Groupe Femmes Politique et Démocratie. The emphasis was on the importance of intergenerativity and the sharing of wisdom and experience of present and past female politicians and mentors. An expression for the need to recruit more mentors was discussed and an idea of how to achieve that goal was recorded.

The session on testimonies and discussions with elected aboriginal women was attended by First Nations women from Québec and Labrador. They are part of a working group which falls under the umbrella of the Native Women's Association of Canada, which is an aggregate of 13 aboriginal women's groups from all across Canada. They pointed out cultural differences in approaches to solutions. Their concerns mirrored those of Canadian women in general and included the concern about equal opportunity for First Nation women to have a role in shaping legislation relevant to aboriginal women. In addition, they wanted the opportunity to preserve aboriginal culture along with excellent education on and off reserves, skill training for their children and to increase the number of aboriginal women elected to band governance, recognizing that each nation and band has various ways of governance.

The visit to l'école secondaire de Neufchâtel, a high school co-op celebrating their 30th anniversary and a leader in its field, was very interesting. Their student council was turned into a model parliament. All members are elected and have input into decisions affecting the student body. They meet every nine days in addition to two evening parliamentary sessions. As a result, many physical and curriculum changes have been made in their school. There was a panel discussion with the parliamentarian group as well as thoughtful questions from the students. It was noted that the elected gender balance for their student parliament was mainly equal.

The parliamentary group visited and was recognized in the Québec National Assembly.

The session on "women journalists, women parliamentarians: comparisons and interactions" was held over a working lunch. Female journalists for print, radio and television were present. There was a lively conversation about the responsibilities that female journalists and elected women have to their respective constituents. An interesting observation was shared that the glass ceiling, although it has cracks, still exists within their industry.

A guided tour of the Parliament Building provided a great visual lesson into the French side of our Canadian history.

A social session came in the form of a guided tour and dinner at a "sugar shack" in the Québec countryside, an event much appreciated, particularly as it was maple sugar season and the sap was running into the hundreds of pails attached to the trees. French Canadian and Métis music and dancing were so appropriate in that setting.

The objectives were networking and sharing of information on how to increase the participation of women in elected politics and progress on each area to the goal. A particular emphasis was placed on engaging young female student and working leaders and to understand the reason that engagement drops off for women in their early 20s.

(Edited for length)

10th Canadian Parliamentary Seminar

Ottawa, Ontario | June 2 – 8, 2013

Delegate

Ian Donovan, *MLA, Little Bow*

Agenda

- Welcome remarks and delegate introductions
- Overview of the role and operation of the Canadian Parliament
- The Commonwealth and the role of the CPA
- The Canadian political scene
- Round-table discussion on regional topics of interest
- Parliamentary committees: What works and what doesn't
- The parliamentary presence of political parties: The role of party caucuses
- Financing elections
- How an MP's office works
- Democracy, human rights and development
- Dealing with the competition: Have the media taken over the representational job of parliamentarians?
- Engaging citizens: Resources and tools
- Connecting with constituents: Representing pluralistic constituencies
- Influencing governments and regulating influence: Parliament and lobbyists
- Open topics from delegates
- Closing remarks and delegate feedback

Delegate Report

First off I would like to thank the Speaker's Office for letting me represent the province on this trip. We were welcomed by MP Joe Preston, chair of the Canadian branch of the CPA. I would have to say that this was a great experience for me, to meet 21 delegates from all over Asia, Africa, Australia, the British Isles, and the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, India, the Pacific region and, of course, two delegates from Canada. We started off with an overview of the role of the Canadian Parliament, which was very insightful and was handled by the Clerk of the House of Commons. To finish off day one, we had a round-table discussion on regional topics. It makes for such a great discussion when you have such a large group from all over the world.

On day two we started off with a great conversation on parliamentary committees and how they work in Canada and also how they work across the other countries. The second part of the day we went over the role of party caucuses. Another interesting session was on financing elections and what was the best way to do it.

Day three was truly a highlight of the trip. We attended the Senate and were recognized. Then we walked to the House of Commons and got to watch question period.

Day four we had a couple of speakers talk about the influence lobbyists have on government and on parliamentarians. It was very interesting to hear how some states or provinces or countries deal with lobbyists and how some don't even have any rules in place to deal with them. We then had an open conversation on being a parliamentarian versus being a politician. This was a great debate on how we should carry ourselves and what our real jobs are as MLAs.

(Edited for length)

Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) – Canadian Region

Edmonton, Alberta | July 14 – 15, 2013

Delegates

Laurie Blakeman, *MLA, Edmonton-Centre*
Pearl Calahasen, *MLA, Lesser Slave Lake*
Mary Anne Jablonski, *MLA, Red Deer-North*
Janice Sarich, *MLA, Edmonton-Decore*

Agenda

- CWP Canadian network steering committee meeting
- CWP welcome reception – hosted by Alberta section
- Welcome remarks, chair's report and CWP business session
- Women of inspiration
- Guest speaker – Ms. Lesley Scorgie
- Guest speaker – Ms. Margaret Bateman

Delegate Report by Mary Anne Jablonski

On Sunday, July 14, 23 CWP members attended the steering committee meeting held at the Legislature Annex, fourth floor, in committee room A. Discussions were held regarding the mission and value statements of the CWP Canadian Region, future activities of the CWP, the CWP budget, increasing the percentage of female candidates in elections and at all levels of government and promoting good governance.

On Monday, July 15, 39 members of the CWP Canadian Region attended business sessions at the Alberta Legislature. Members were welcomed by Ms. Myrna Driedger, chair, CWP Canadian Region, and MLA for Charleswood in Manitoba, and by Mary Anne Jablonski, MLA for Red Deer-North and Alberta representative.

After the annual CWP business session and health break the CWP was very pleased to have the Honourable Alison Redford, Premier of Alberta, speak to the members as A Woman of Inspiration. Members were very pleased and honoured to hear Premier Redford speak, to have her answer questions and, afterwards, to have a group photo taken as well as pictures with individual members of the group.

The CWP then heard from two excellent guest speakers, Ms. Lesley Scorgie and Ms. Margaret Bateman. Ms. Scorgie wrote the book Rich by Thirty, and Ms. Bateman is an organizational consultant. Both guest speakers were well received.

Once the CWP proceedings were completed, CWP members were greeted by the Speaker of the Alberta Legislature, the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, and by the chair of the CWP, Ms. Myrna Dreidger.

The CWP, Canadian Region steering committee meeting and the CWP business session were both well received by all members.

(Edited for length)

62nd Westminster Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure

London, United Kingdom | June 17 – 21, 2013

Delegates

Steve Young, *MLA, Edmonton-Riverview*
Rob Reynolds QC, *Law Clerk and Director of Interparliamentary Relations*

Agenda

- Introduction to the Parliament at Westminster
- The legislative process
- Running parliament
- Bicameralism: The work of a second Chamber
- Parliamentary questions (PQs) and motions
- Role of an MP
- Member/clerk relations
- The role of the opposition
- The role of the committee clerk
- Party discipline in parliament
- The scrutiny unit
- The role of the Leader of the House
- The Journal Office
- The role of the media in the oversight of parliament
- Office of the Speaker's Counsel
- The committee system
- Workshop session on the committee system
- Holding the Prime Minster to account: Prime Minister's questions (PMQs)
- Standards, privileges and the role of an independent parliamentary standards authority (IPSA)
- The working parliament
- Devolution
- Electoral systems
- Working supper: Delegates exchange views
- Broadcasting parliament
- Parliament, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and civil society
- Women in parliament
- The role of the Speaker
- Parliamentary information services: Resource, research and outreach
- Commonwealth matters
- Briefing for the constituency visit
- Constituency visits
- Report back on constituency visits
- Young people and parliament: Engaging the next generation
- Closing plenary and presentation certificates
- Tours of the Parliament Building

Delegate Report by Steve Young

I was fortunate to participate in the 62nd Westminster Seminar on Parliamentary Practice and Procedure presented by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) UK Branch. I attended with Robert Reynolds, QC, Law Clerk and Director of Interparliamentary Relations, on behalf of the Legislative Assembly. Typically, these seminars have been held in March, which makes it difficult for Members from Alberta to attend given that the Assembly is usually in session. The year I attended marked a departure as the seminar was moved to June. Alberta was fortunately selected to send participants.

There were five days of sessions, running from Monday, June 17, until Friday, June 21. Most of the sessions were held in Portcullis House, which is located across the street from Parliament at Westminster. The Palace of Westminster, which houses both Houses of Parliament in the UK, may be more easily recognizable as the location of the iconic Big Ben.

There were 83 delegates from 42 jurisdictions throughout the Commonwealth who attended the seminar.

The sessions covered a variety of subjects concerning the operation of Assemblies and the roles of Members. Some of the specific topics included an introduction to UK Parliament, bicameralism: the work of the second Chamber, the committee system, devolution, broadcasting Parliament and women in Parliament. In the Members only session, which ran for one day, some of the topics were the role of the Member, party discipline and the role of the Leader of the House. That day there was a parallel session for clerks, which Mr. Reynolds attended, concerning the provision of services to Members, including legal and procedural advice.

We were fortunate enough to have plenary sessions with the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Right Honourable John Bercow, MP, and the Speaker of the House of Lords the Right Honourable Baroness D'Souza. Individual sessions included participation by the Right Honourable Baroness Hayman, former Speaker of the House of Lords, in a session on women in Parliament, and by the Right Honourable Kevin Barron, MP and chair of the Standards and Privileges Committees, on standards and privileges.

A unique part of the seminar occurred on the final day, when the delegates were divided into groups to participate in constituency office visits with individual MPs throughout the Greater London area. I was fortunate enough to be part of a group hosted by Mr. Virendra Sharma, MP for the constituency of Ealing Southall. It was informative to view the similarities and differences in how MPs in the UK and MPs in Alberta perform their duties.

In summary, I was very grateful for the opportunity to attend this prestigious seminar. I found it to be an excellent opportunity to learn more about the role of a parliamentarian. Of course, the chance to share experiences with fellow parliamentarians and clerks from across the Commonwealth is incomparable. I fully support and encourage the Legislative Assembly of Alberta's future participation in this event.

(Edited for length)

51st Canadian Regional Conference – Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

Edmonton, Alberta | July 14 – 20, 2013

Agenda

- Trends and developments in private Members' business
- Oil battles, prosperity certificates and disallowed legislation: A brief history of Alberta's Assembly – Presentation
- Canadian Regional Council meeting
- Impact of technology and new media on Members
- Assessing the use of social media and Web 2.0 to enhance democratic political representation
- Variations in women's representation in provincial Legislatures
- Developments in making Members' expenses public
- Labour market trends: Planning for tomorrow's workforce
- What are the tools of the trade?: New Members' expectations and requirements for their role as parliamentarians

National Conference of State Legislatures

Atlanta, Georgia | August 11 – 16, 2013

Delegates

Rob Anderson, *MLA, Airdrie*
Drew Barnes, *MLA, Cypress-Medicine Hat*
David Dorward, *MLA, Edmonton-Gold Bar*
Janice Sarich, *MLA, Edmonton-Decore*
Jeff Wilson, *MLA, Calgary-Shaw*

Agenda

- Welcome and introductions – international program
- Visit to Georgia State Capitol (tour and meetings) – international program
- Global health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Healthier, safer and longer lives worldwide – international program
- International comparisons and universal solutions – international program, round-table discussion
- Our constitutional legacy – general session
- America's retirement crisis – general session
- Economic recovery, great expectations – general session
- NCSL business meeting
- Lakes, lunch and politics – general session, featuring David Gergen

Delegate Report by Janice Sarich

It was my pleasure to attend the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) 2013 Legislative Summit in Atlanta, Georgia from August 12 to 15, 2013. The conference prides itself on being to be the largest national gathering which brings together legislators and personnel involved with cities and Legislatures. The structure of the national conference is to provide delegates with the opportunities to learn and explore policy ideas, to inspire conversations with others and to help build strong directions for policy action and application. Although the NCSL 2013 Legislative Summit had many sessional offerings, only a few are highlighted for the purpose of the enclosed report.

As per the international agenda there was an official welcome along with introductions for the international delegates. The presiding officials included Illinois state Senator Pamela Althoff, co-chair of the Task Force on International Relations; Massachusetts state Senator Richard Moore, co-chair of the Task Force on International Relations; and Maryland state Senator Verna Jones Rodwell, co-chair of the Task Force on International Relations. International delegates were provided with an opportunity to meet and share thoughts about conference expectations and priorities. Topics of interest as noted by some of the international delegates included K to 12 education systems, advanced education, electoral systems and campaigns, scholarship programs, elected official training, lobbyist registries, Office of the Ethics Commissioner, legislative systems in developing countries, infrastructure needs and challenges, party systems, e-government digital tools and systems and social inequities and challenges for governments. There were delegations from the following countries: Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Belgium, Canada, China, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Federated States of Micronesia, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, the Taiwan Provincial Conservative Council, Tanzania, Uganda, the United States of America and Zimbabwe.

It was my pleasure to attend, on behalf of the Speaker the special meeting between Canadian provincial Speakers and U.S. state Legislatures. The Honourable Terie Norelli, Speaker of the House, General Court of New

Hamshire, and president of NCSL, provided opening remarks and introductions. Mr. William Pound, executive director of NCSL, provided historical and current perspectives on the ongoing relationship between NCSL and the Canadian Legislatures. The agenda included general discussions in the following areas: the exchange of knowledge to help promote Legislature best practices over the next three to five years, ways and means to support inter-parliamentarian relationships and networks, the short and long-term work of NCSL task forces and committees, international affiliates to NCSL and potential ideas for future directions to strengthen working relationships.

In addition, another highlight included international program round-table discussions with U.S. state legislators and NCSL personnel on the topic of "international comparisons and universal solutions." There was a high level of interaction at this session to exchange ideas and insights as well as critical points of interest in the areas of energy public health, disaster relief, demographic changes, constituent outreach, technology, media relations and Bill drafting. Also, delegates approached the discussions from the perspective of developing and strengthening democracies and the crucial role of Legislatures and governance.

Many conference delegates attended the session that featured Ms. Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Ms. O'Connor's presentation emphasized the United States constitutional legacy, which was connected to the 225th anniversary commemoration. Special highlights included the system of electing judges and the implications of this approach. She referenced the following website icivics.org to ignite youth to explore the civic system.

Another very special and wonderful experience made available to delegates was an opportunity to attend a session with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Former President Carter shared information about the history and the many accomplishments of the centre, which is guided by a fundamental commitment to advance peace and health worldwide.

The conference sessions, which featured topics regarding mobile interfaces of technology, digitization and Legislature structures, appeared to be of great interest to NCSL delegates. The presentations and discussion points ranged from governments' lack of response to embrace technology tools, which would have dramatic gains on productivity, to real-time information and response systems in all aspects of Legislature business.

On behalf of the Alberta delegation and guests it was an honour and privilege to have the opportunity to attend a nationally and internationally recognized conference filled with specialized and resourceful sessions. Without a doubt, delegates from around the world met to exchange concepts and ideas with colleagues, with a view to augment professional experiences and to create networks that, no doubt, in many cases will last a lifetime.

(Edited for length)

America Region, Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophone (APF)

Quebéc City, Québec | August 19 – 22, 2013

Delegates

Hector Goudreau, *MLA, Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley*
Linda Johnson, *MLA, Calgary-Glenmore*

Delegate Report by Hector Goudreau

The 29th session of the APF was held in Québec from the 19th to 22nd of August 2013. Eight provinces had representatives; as did Canada as a nation, Haiti, the United States of America and France, and several observers were present.

During the president's meeting updates were given on section membership. Recognition was given to Honourable Senator Andrée Champagne as international president of the APF. Reports were presented on various meeting held during the year, and future calendar activities, financial reports and past resolution follow-ups were addressed. Discussions also occurred regarding the first national Francophone Youth Parliament (PFJA), to be held in Toronto in August 2014, coinciding with the next meeting of the APF, also to be held in Toronto from the 5th to the 7th of August 2014.

The president's meeting concluded with a discussion on the consolidation/expansion of the American section of the APF. It was agreed that all participants had an important role in promoting the APF to other regions, including but not limited to the Yukon.

The following days' discussions centred on the "impact of immigration on the status of French in our country/province." The session started with a presentation from Professor Francois Charbonneau, who described immigration patterns in Canada and their impact on francophone communities. Other presentations were made by Alberta (Hector Goudreau, MLA), Canadian federal representatives, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Québec and Ontario. All presenters discussed their individual situations, highlighting both the challenges and benefits of immigration of francophone communities in a minority situation.

The session concluded with a discussion on future themes to be studied. Social media was one topic amongst many that most felt required deeper discussion.

(Edited for length)

Joint Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees (CCPAC) and Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors (CCOLA) Conference

Regina, Saskatchewan | August 25 – 27, 2013

Delegates

Rob Anderson, *chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, MLA, Airdrie*
Janice Sarich, *MLA, Edmonton-Decore (on behalf of David Dorward, deputy chair, MLA, Edmonton-Gold Bar)*

Agenda

- Opening remarks
- Overview of the 2013 CCAF-FCVI survey of Canadian standing committees on public accounts
- Effective jurisdictional practices – round-table
- Redefining the relationship – guest speaker
- Demystifying Legislative Auditors' reports: Audit selection, reporting and recommendations – The impact on public accounts committees
- Acting on the Auditor General's report: The role of PACs in addressing Auditor General reports
- The big shift – guest speaker
- Closing remarks and invitation from Newfoundland delegation to attend 2014 CCPAC/CCOLA Conference

Delegate Report by Janice Sarich

It was my pleasure to attend the 34th annual joint Canadian Council of Public Accounts Committees (CCPAC) and the Canadian Council of Legislative Auditors (CCOLA) Conference, hosted by the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and the Office of the Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan in Regina, Saskatchewan, from August 25 to 17, 2013. The conference brings together legislators and personnel involved with public accounts committees to meet jointly with the Legislative Auditors to engage in discussions relating to many aspects of financial accountability and other topics.

The joint conference activities of CCPAC and CCOLA began with opening remarks by Warren McCall, chair, Saskatchewan Standing Committee on Public Accounts, and Bonnie Lysyk, Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan. This was followed by a presentation by Paul Lohnes, president and CEO, CCAF-FCVI Inc., and Geoff Dubrow, Principal Associate, CCAF-FCVI Inc., on the new survey and results from the 2013 survey of Canada's 14 public accounts committees. The survey and results were identified as groundbreaking when

compared to the two previous surveys as the PAC chairs and vice-chairs were included for the first time. The comprehensive report concentrated on 12 attributes of an effective public accounts committee.

Following this item of conference activity Geoff Dubrow, principal associate, CCAF-FCVI Inc., facilitated a session which included 14 presentations and discussions on the topic of "effective jurisdictional practices." Each jurisdiction, which included the PAC chair and auditor as well as federal, provincial and territorial representatives, was asked to comment on one preselected practice in which they considered their PAC to be particularly effective.

Gabrielle Scrimshaw, co-founder of the Aboriginal Professional Association of Canada, provided a presentation to delegates on "redefining the relationship." She touched on her personal journey as a Dene aboriginal, moving from the Hatchet Lake First Nation community in northern Saskatchewan to Toronto. She highlighted issues and challenges within this population demographic. Also, the presentation noted that steps toward indigenous well-being included, closing skill and education gaps and creating conditions for the advancement of policy development and private sector relationships that include this population segment.

Bonnie Lysyk, Provincial Auditor of Saskatchewan, and Kim MacPherson, Auditor General of New Brunswick, presented a session on "demystifying Legislative Auditors' reports: audit selection, reporting and recommendations – the impact on public account committees." Highlights included the varying mix of work between attest audit work and other audit work as well as a trend toward increasing performance work, environmental and governance auditing.

A portion of day two of the conference's afternoon session was dedicated to panel presentations on "acting on the Auditor General's report: the role of PACs in addressing Auditor General reports." Mr. Rob Anderson, MLA for Airdrie and chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, was one of four presenters on the topic.

Also, Mr. Michael Samson, CPA, CA and Acting Auditor General of Québec, presented information which included the following points of interest.

The last day of the conference program included break-out sessions for three groups e.g., chairs/deputy chairs, clerks/researchers and other PAC members. Yours truly attended the session facilitated by CCAF in which delegates presented specific examples of effective committee member questioning techniques from their respective PASs. As previously agreed, the Alberta example highlighted dialogue excerpts from the Standing Committee on Public Accounts – Enterprise and Advanced Education (pages 76-77). Also, delegates received a wide range of information pieces from other jurisdictions, which included how to manage difficult witnesses, how to explore a line of questioning, PAC Caucus premeeting objectives and question co-ordination, the rationale of swearing-in witnesses and the importance of receiving an answer rather than bafflegab.

In addition, there was a session on reporting and follow-up, which was facilitated by Geoff Dubrow, Principal Associate, CCAF-FCVI Inc. The focus touched on the examination of the PAC best practices for writing committee reports, unanimity, report-tabling in the Legislature, issuing recommendations and conducting follow-up hearings.

Closing remarks for the conference were received by the delegates, followed by a special invitation to attend the next conference to be held in St. John's, Newfoundland. The closing luncheon featured Mr. Darrell Bricker, CEO of Ipsos Global Public Affairs and author of The Big Shift. There were many engaging and interesting parts in his remarks, particularly when he discussed how immigration has played a role in the seismic changes that have taken place in Canada, Canadian politics and the new evolving political philosophies.

(Edited for length)

59th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

Johannesburg, South Africa | August 28 – September 6, 2013

Delegates

Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, *Speaker, MLA, Edmonton-Mill Creek*
Dr. David McNeil, *Clerk of the Assembly*
Mary Anne Jablonski, *MLA, Red Deer-North*

Agenda

- Land access and ownership: Progress and challenges experienced by rural communities in accessing land. What could be the role and intervention of parliamentarians?
- Should there be parliamentary intervention in the informal economy and entrepreneurship sectors?
- The challenges of attaining the millennium development goals
- Inequitable resource-sharing: A threat to democratic governance
- The role of parliamentarians in the transfer of technology and research to boost agricultural productivity
- Governing democratically in a tech-empowered world: Deepening partnerships between parliaments and parliamentary monitoring organizations (PMOs)
- Separation of powers and good governance
- Policy solutions for caring for an ageing population
- A parliamentary response to the Commonwealth Charter

Partnership of Parliaments (POP)

Germany | September 15 – 25, 2013

Delegates

Laurie Blakeman, *MLA, Edmonton-Centre*
Jason Hale, *MLA, Strathmore-Brooks*
George Rogers, *MLA, Leduc-Beaumont*
Len Webber, *MLA, Calgary-Foothills*

Agenda (with add-ons)

- Visits to the States of Hesse, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland and Berlin
- Tour of German Bundesrat (Senate)
- Overview of Canadian-German Relations, including Trade Relations
- Discussions re: Alberta's Energy and Environmental Policies
- Discussions re: Flood prevention and protection
- Business Overviews re: Europe's political and economic situation

POP is a joint initiative among many Canadian provinces, American states, and 17 German Landtags (provinces). Its format is a study tour with presentations, discussion groups, and visits to various locations across Germany. Among its purposes is to learn, to share and exchange information relevant to maintaining strong international ties on issues of mutual benefit, such as the economy, tourism, trade and commerce, as well as culture and non-partisan relations.

12th General Assembly of the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)

Brasilia, Brazil | October 13 – 16, 2013

Delegate

Moe Amery, *MLA, Calgary-East*

Agenda

- Meeting of the executive committee of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas (Reserved to the members of the committee)
- Private meetings of the three secretariats
- Second consultation with Parliamentarians of the Americas

- Discussion groups on the priorities of a legislative agenda promoting women's rights and gender equality in the Americas
- 11th annual meeting of the Network of Women Parliamentarians of the Americas
- Working session of the Committee on Health and Social Protection
- Working session of the Committee on Human Rights, Aboriginal Peoples and Citizen Security
- Working Session of the Committee on Economy, Trade, Labour, Competitiveness and Trading Blocs
- Working session of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development
- Meeting of the executive committee of the COPA
- Plenary session of the 12th general assembly of the COPA

Delegate Report

The conference was a real eye opener for me, meeting a lot of interesting people from the Americas and having discussed important issues. Most of the North American, Central American and South American countries were represented with the exception of the United States of America. We had speakers addressing the conference from the United Nations as well as the ambassador of Mexico and the ambassador of Venezuela to Brazil in addition to senators and congressmen and women from the Brazilian government.

The issues that dominated the conference agenda were the following:

- Issues concerning women were front and centre, ranging from poverty, lack of proper education, pay equity, participation in politics and the inability to participate in the decision-making process.
- The conference called on the Parliamentarians of the Americas to take action to contribute towards achieving by 2015 the millennium development goal to reduce the under the age of five child mortality rate in Latin America and the Caribbean region, which is 18 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- Health was also a major topic of discussion at the conference. The speaker focused on the use of tobacco, salt, sugar and the consumption of alcohol. Lack of exercise was also discussed, and it was noted that in Brazil obesity is a major concern. One speaker mentioned that 48 per cent of the population is either obese or overweight in the 40 to 50 age demographic. Added to this are the prevalence of infections and chronic diseases, so a large population of Brazil is at risk. Some of the goals that arose from the discussion were to reduce tobacco and alcohol usage, to limit the intake of salt and sugar and to ultimately to increase physical activity.
- Trading and trafficking in small arms and light weapons was another major topic of discussion with the delegates, especially those from Central and Latin America, due to the harm inflicted on women, children and civilian populations. Also, the conference called on all states in accordance with their respective international obligations to regulate and supervise the international trade of conventional weapons, to prevent their diversion for illicit purposes and to implement effective systems of national control.
- The conference also advanced and encouraged the fight against school withdrawl and urged for school re-entry.
- A resolution was submitted and a recommendation was made that the participation of parliamentarians from COPA in a multilateral electoral observation mission is a matter of priority in order to attain the COPA objective of contributing to the strengthening of parliamentary democracy and to dispatch an electoral observation mission to Columbia to monitor the first round of the presidential election on May 25, 2014.
- A draft declaration by the Cuban delegation was circulated to delegates, stating the adverse effects of the Cuban trade embargo imposed by the United States of America on the health of the Cuban people; however, no action was taken.
- Haiti also presented a draft request to condemn the Dominican Republic for threatening to deprive Dominican Republic citizens of their citizenship if they live in Haiti; however, no action was taken.

(Edited for length)

National Speakers Conference

Los Angeles, California | October 23 – 26, 2013

Delegate

Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, *Speaker, MLA, Edmonton-Mill Creek*

Agenda (abridged)

- Honoring our Commitment to Veterans
- Taking the Pulse of the Electorate
- Keeping the Promise of Higher Education
- Speakers' Session (Legislative Leadership)
- Future of the Entertainment Industry in the Mobile World (Understanding and Using Social Media)
- Tour – Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
- Tour – Universal Studios

The National Speakers Conference was founded in 1992 and, on an annual basis, it brings together Speakers from the U.S.A. and guest Speakers by invitation from Canada and elsewhere. As reflected by the agenda above, Speakers gather to discuss issues of common interest, and to exchange ideas and information pertaining to their various roles. As with similarly organized conferences, the NSC does not engage in partisan politics. Its role includes maintaining good relationships with other countries and on effective legislative leadership. Discussion topics this year also included: breaking down perceptual barriers to people wanting to travel to your area; the impact of tourism on your economy and on jobs: and, understanding and using social media as the new communication :method of choice.

35th Canadian Regional Parliamentary Seminar

St. John's, Newfoundland | October 31 – November 3, 2013

Delegates

Honourable Gene Zwozdesky, *Speaker, MLA, Edmonton-Mill Creek*
Rod Fox, *MLA, Lacombe-Ponoka*
Genia Leskiw, *MLA, Bonnyville-Cold Lake*
Jason Luan, *MLA, Calgary-Hawkwood*
Sohail Quadri, *MLA, Edmonton-Mill Woods*
Shayne Saskiw, *MLA, Lac La Biche-St. Paul-Two Hills*

Agenda

- Welcome reception at Government House
- Welcome and opening remarks – Honourable Ross Wiseman, Speaker of the House of Assembly for Newfoundland & Labrador and MHA for Trinity North
- Urbanization and demographics
- Tour of the Newfoundland and Labrador Legislature
- Climate change
- Population aging: A paradigm shift – Is this a crisis or opportunity?
- Skits, songs and seafood – Royal Canadian Legion, Bay Roberts waterfront
- Enhancing financial accountability in British Columbia
- Parliamentary customs, modern expectations: Can they coexist?
- Networking

Delegate Report

Forty-one delegates from 10 provinces and one territory in addition to two delegates from the Federal government attended the seminar.

The conference started with delegates attending a reception hosted by the Honourable Frank F. Fagan, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland Labrador, at his residence, the Government House.

November 1 we attended three business sessions.

- Urbanization and demographics: Dealt with rural and regional development, to describe how cities and communities in Canada increasingly

function as regional economies. The topic was relative to all regions of the country.
- Climate change: The presentation explored why it has proven to be so difficult to tackle from a public policy perspective.
- Population aging: A paradigm shift – Is this a crises or an opportunity?: The session addressed the importance of using an inclusionary, non-ageist lens when developing legislation, policies, programs and services.

At lunch we were honoured to tour the Legislature Building in St. John's and learn about their building and history.

In the evening we were treated to Newfoundlanders' hospitality. We toured the Bay Roberts Cable Building National Historic Site, followed by an evening dedicated to celebrating Newfoundland and Labrador culture through skits, music and a sampling of some catch from the sea. It was a great evening at the Royal Canadian Legion at Bay Roberts waterfront.

Saturday, November 2, we continued with session 4 and session 5. Topics we covered included enhancing financial accountability in B.C. The final session was on "parliamentary customs, modern expectations: Can they co-exist?". This session was facilitated by our Speaker of the House, the Honourable Gene Zwozdesky.

The evening was complete by a reception hosted by the Honourable Ross Wiseman, Speaker of the Newfoundland and Labrador Legislative Assembly, at The Rooms Provincial Archives and Museum.

We experienced fabulous and warm hospitality from our host province. We had the opportunity to connect with all parties and regions of our nation. Seminars like this give parliamentarians across the nation the opportunity to learn from one another. This was an excellent professional opportunity that all MLAs should experience when the opportunity arises.

(Edited for length)

Council of Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL) Conference

Québec City, Québec | December 8 – 11, 2013

Delegates

Wayne Cao, *MLA, Calgary-Fort*
Dr. Neil Brown, *QC, MLA, Calgary-Mackay-Nose Hill*
Everett McDonald, *MLA, Grande Prairie-Smoky*

Agenda

- Election day: Gearing up for your Super Bowl
- Leveraging technology to your office's advantage
- 10 things you wish you knew before starting an investigation
- Campaign finance update I: Litigation
- You recruited the best: How to get and keep stars on your winning team
- I'm not a lobbyist!: Proactively communicating lobbying reporting requirements to a skeptical audience
- Strategies for handling "high maintenance" stakeholders
- Using next generation digital platforms to advance ethics compliance
- Evolution of the voting process
- Using plain language to make your public materials understandable
- Bans, limits, disclosure and small donors: Regulating money in politics
- Due process and beyond: General counsel round-table
- Campaign finance update II: Dark money, bitcoins and other legislative trends
- Access to e-mails and digital communications: Ethics and open government issues
- Agency visions: The art of strategic planning – Board members/commissioners round-table
- Walking the tightrope: Balancing demands with diminishing resources
- Best practices for protecting your agency's sensitive information and responding to privacy breaches
- Offense, defense or referee?: Exploring a regulatory agency's relationships with others
- Determining the true value of in-kind political contributions and gifts
- Planning to win: Effective trial prep techniques
- Ethics of being a regulator
- Government transparency: Enhancing or impairing safety and security
- Bringing voters back to the polls: Developing effective partnerships
- An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of enforcement: Encouraging ethics compliance
- FOIA round-table
- Plenary sessions:
- From journalist to politician: Perspectives on civic engagement – Bernard Drainville
- What were you thinking?: Inside the dangerous mind of a political cartoonist – Marc Murphy
- The future of information: How new technologies are impacting you, your agency and sensitive data – Peter Doolan
- Learning to read the stars: Leadership for crisis prevention – Marie-Christine Therrien

Delegate Report

The conference program covered issues of interest to the Legislative Offices Committee, relating to its work with Officers of the Legislature: the Auditor General, Chief Electoral Officer, Child and Youth Advocate, Ethics Commissioner, Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Ombudsman and Public Interest Commissioner. The conference program addressed elections, campaign financing, ethics, lobbying and public disclosure and privacy policies. There were update sessions with respect to ongoing, resolved and new issues and legal matters relating to elections and campaign financing. Alberta was represented by delegates from the city of Calgary, the Office of the Ethics Commissioner and Lobbyists Registrar, the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer and the Legislative Offices Committee. Delegates were also present from the various provincial offices of elections, lobbying, ethics and information and privacy from the provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, Ontario, and Québec as well as representatives from those offices within the government of Canada. Mrs. Sawchuk, committee clerk, acted as moderator during a table topics session.

COGEL is an international organization whose primary membership originates in the United States and Canada. Delegates and session participants at the 2013 conference were from the United States, Canada and Australia. Canadian jurisdictions were well represented, and moderators and panelists included representatives from various federal and provincial offices. The 2014 conference will be held in Pittsburgh, PA in December 2014.

(Edited for length)

General Assembly, Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie (APF)

Brussels, Belgium | July 8 – 12, 2012*

Delegate

Hector Goudreau, *MLA, Dunvegan-Central Peace-Notley*

Delegate Report

I had the honour to represent the province of Alberta at the Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie conference in Brussels. I was able to join other colleagues from across Canada and around the world. The experience reinforced interparliamentary relations as we worked together to enhance policies concerning francophone communities internationally.

Over the year, leading up to the conference, four commissions study general themes, including:

- parliamentary,
- co-op and development,
- education and communication and
- political affairs.

These commissions present reports of their activities and suggestions for the broader conference participants to adopt. As well, four sections – Africa, the Americas, the Asia Pacific region and Europe – also presented on their activities during the past year.

Other agenda items included

- a presentation by Abdou Diouf, general secretary of la Francophonie,
- a number of presentations on media and information and communications technology and
- presentations by Jacques Legendre, parliamentary secretary, and Michel Wolter, treasurer, on the assembly's financial and annual reports.

The whole conference was interspersed with numerous resolutions that were debated, amended and approved.

This conference was an excellent opportunity to network with colleagues from around the world and to understand the various challenges and opportunities that we all have.

Note: The Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie conference in Brussels was held in 2012. Mr. Goudreau's conference report was inadvertently not included in the 2012 annual report. We regret the error and apologize for this oversight.

Interparliamentary Relations

The Speaker, Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committees, Deputy Chair of Committees and staff of the Legislative Assembly Office are in ongoing liaison with Members and staff of other parliaments and with other representatives of foreign countries. In 2013 they welcomed the following visitors:

February 20

His Excellency Dr. Konstantin Zhigalov
Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan

March 18

Her Excellency Mona Brøther
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway

April 10

Mr. Ilias Kremmydas
Consul General of Greece

April 22

His Excellency Vytautas Zalys
Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania

May 27

His Excellency Chief Ojo Maduekwe
High Commissioner of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

May 30

His Excellency Admiral (Ret'd) Nirmal Kumar Verma
High Commissioner of India

June 10

His Excellency Cho Hee-yong
Ambassador of the Republic of Korea

June 19

His Excellency Simon Tucker
High Commissioner of New Zealand

July 15

Honourable Dr. Charanjit Singh Atwal
Speaker of the Punjab Legislative Assembly

August 12

Honourable Mykhaylo Vyshvanyuk
Governor of Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine

October 16

Her Excellency Marie-Anne Coninsx
Ambassador Designate – Delegation of the European Union

October 30

Mr. Quang Dung Tran
Consul General of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

November 6

His Excellency Nicolás Lloreda Ricaurte
Ambassador of the Republic of Colombia

November 20

Ms. Liu Yongfeng
Consul General of China

December 2

Mr. Kie-Cheon Lee
Consul General of the Republic of Korea

December 4

His Excellency Carlos Gomez-Mugica Sanz
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain

Obituaries

Mrs. Muriel Ross Abdurahman

April 29, 1938 – December 22, 2013

Mrs. Abdurahman was first elected in the election held June 15, 1993, and served until March 10, 1997. During her years of service she represented the constituency of Clover Bar-Fort Saskatchewan for the Alberta Liberal Party.

During her term of office, Mrs. Abdurahman served as the critic for Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Public Works and Treasury and the deputy critic for Health. Mrs. Abdurahman also served on a number of committees, including as chair of the Select Standing Committee on Public Accounts from 1993 to 1997 and as a member of the Select Standing Committees on Public Affairs and on Private Bills.

In addition to her legislative service, Mrs. Abdurahman served first as a councillor, from 1977 to 1980, and then as the mayor of Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, from 1980 to 1986. She also served as a member of the Premier's Advisory Council on Health for Alberta from 2000 to 2001.

Mrs. Muriel Ross Abdurahman received the following honours during her lifetime:

- Alberta outstanding service award from the Health Unit Association of Alberta
- International communication achievement award from the Fortress Toastmasters
- International Women's Day award from Strathcona county (2011)
- Mayor's award from Strathcona county (2011)
- Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal (2012)

Dr. Walter Buck

December 16, 1930 – March 14, 2013

Dr. Buck was first elected in the election held May 23, 1967, and served until March 20, 1989. During his years of service he represented the constituency of Clover Bar for the Alberta Social Credit Party in the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th Legislatures. He served as an Independent in the 20th Legislature as a member of the Representative Party of Alberta in the 21st Legislature.

During his terms of office Dr. Walter Alexander Buck served on the Select Standing Committees on Municipal Law and Law Amendments; Public Affairs, Agriculture and Education; Private Bills, Standing Orders and Printing; Law, Law Amendments and Regulations; Law and Regulations; Privileges and Elections; Public Affairs; Public Accounts; Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing; the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act; Legislative Offices; Private Bills; and Reviewing Intra-Provincial Trucking Regulations, the Special Committees to Review the *Election Act*; to Make a Recommendation to the Assembly for the Position of Ombudsman; to Appoint a Chief Electoral Officer; and to Consider the Appointment or Reappointment of the Chief Electoral Officer, the Special Legislative Committees on Automobile Insurance, Safe Highway Design, Driver Licensing, Education and Control and Related Matters; and Automobile Insurance, the Select Special Committee on the Workers' Compensation Act and the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the Special Select Standing Committee on Members' Services.

Dr. Buck was also the Deputy Leader for the Representative Party of Alberta (1984-1985) and for a number of years provided commentary for channels ACCESS and CTV Two of the opening of each session of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

Dr. Walter Alexander Buck received the following honours:

- Distinguished alumni award from the Augustana Alumni Association (1984)
- Michael Luchkovich award from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Alberta Provincial Council (1998)
- Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee medal (2002)
- President's award from the Ukrainian Foundation for College Education, MacEwan University (2010)
- Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal (2013)

Dr. Charles Robert (Bob) Elliott

October 15, 1927 – October 14, 2013

Dr. Elliott was first elected in the election held November 2, 1982, and served until June 14, 1993. During his years of service he represented the constituency of Grand Prairie for the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta.

During his terms of office Dr. Elliott served on the Select Standing Committee on Legislative Offices from 1983 to 1988 and as Chair for this committee from 1983 to 1985. He served on the Select Standing Committees on Private Bills; Public Affairs; and Law and Regulations, for which he was the deputy chair from 1989 to 1993; the Select Special Ombudsman Search Committee and Select Special Committee on Parliamentary Reform; the Special Select Standing Committee on Members' Services as well as the Special Committee to Prepare and Report Lists of Members to Compose the Select Standing Committees.

In addition to his legislative service, Dr. Elliott served first as a councillor, from 1967 to 1971, and then as mayor of the town of Beaverlodge, Alberta, from 1971 to 1977. He also served as chair of the Northern Alberta Development Council from 1987 to 1993.

Dr. Charles Robert Elliott received the following honours during his lifetime:

- Honorary life member of both the Canadian Seed Growers' Association and Alberta Seed Growers' Association
- Life membership to the Beaverlodge Chamber of Commerce
- Man of the year award from the Canadian Seed Trade Association and Pacific Seedsmen's Association (1966)
- Named citizen of the year by the Beaverlodge Chamber of Commerce (1977)

Mr. Louis D. Hyndman
July 1, 1935 – November 25, 2013

Mr. Hyndman was first elected in the election held May 23, 1967, and served until May 7, 1986. During his years of service he represented the constituency of Edmonton West, later renamed Edmonton-Glenora, for the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta.

During his terms of office Mr. Hyndman served as Minister of Education from September 10, 1971, to April 2, 1975, Minister of Federal and Intergovernmental Affairs from April 3, 1975, to March 22, 1979, and Provincial Treasurer from March 23, 1979, to May 25, 1986.

Mr. Hyndman served on the Select Standing Committees on Public Affairs; Agriculture and Education; Privileges and Elections; Law, Law Amendments and Regulations; Rules, Orders and Forms of Proceeding of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta; Law and Regulations; Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing; and Public Affairs, the Special Committees on Redistribution Procedure; to Prepare and Report Lists of Members to Compose the Select Standing Committees; to Review the Rules of the Assembly; on Automobile Insurance, Safe Highway Design, Driver Licensing, Education and Control and Related Matters; and to Review the Standing Orders and Forms of Proceedings of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. Mr. Hyndman served as the chair of the Special Committee to Make a Recommendation to the Assembly for the Position of Ombudsman.

Mr. Louis D. Hyndman received the following honours and appointments in his lifetime:

- Queen's Counsel (1975)
- Chair of the Premier's Commission on Future Health Care for Albertans (1987-1989)
- Royal Commission on a National Passenger System for Canada in the 21st Century (1989-1992)
- Officer of the Order of Canada (1993)
- Canadian Safety and Accident Board Review Commission (1993)
- Honourable captain with the Forth Destroyer Squadron of the Royal Canadian Navy (1993-1996)
- Chancellor of the University of Alberta (1994-1998)

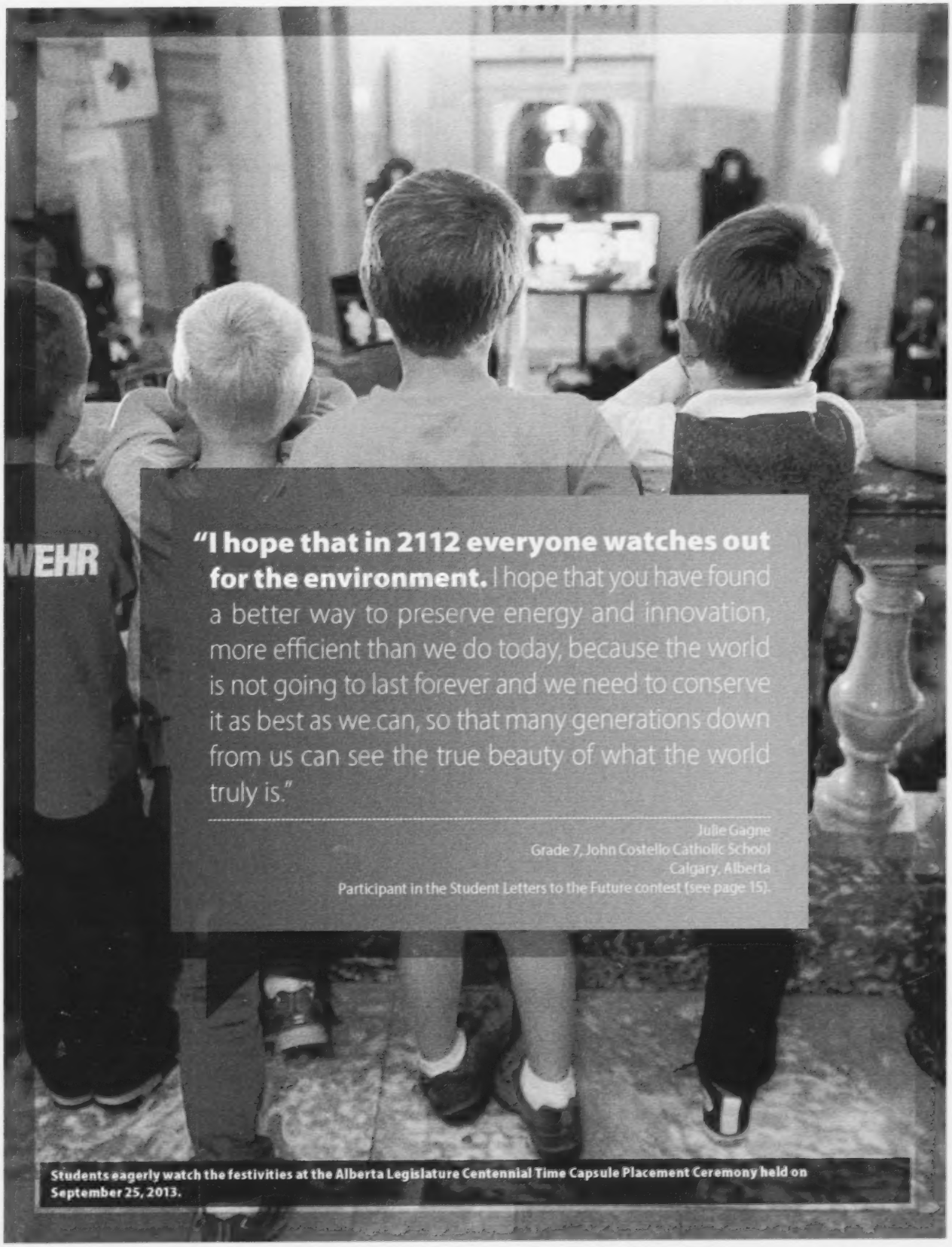
Mr. Edwin (Ed) Albert Oman
August 31, 1930 – September 19, 2013

Mr. Oman was first elected in the election held March 14, 1979, and served until May 7, 1986. During his years of service he represented the constituency of Calgary-North Hill for the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta.

During his terms of office Mr. Edwin Albert Oman served on the Select Standing Committees on Privileges and Elections, Standing Orders and Printing; Public Accounts; Public Affairs; Offices of the Auditor General and Ombudsman; Law and Regulations; Legislative Offices; Private Bills; the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund Act and the Special Committee to Prepare and Report Lists of Members to Compose the Select Standing Committees.

In addition to his legislative service, Mr. Oman served as an alderman for the city of Calgary from 1971 to 1977.

The ceremonial trowel and mortar used during the Alberta Legislature Centennial Time Capsule Placement Ceremony held on September 25, 2013.



"I hope that in 2112 everyone watches out for the environment. I hope that you have found a better way to preserve energy and innovation, more efficient than we do today, because the world is not going to last forever and we need to conserve it as best as we can, so that many generations down from us can see the true beauty of what the world truly is."

Julie Gagne
Grade 7, John Costello Catholic School
Calgary, Alberta
Participant in the Student Letters to the Future contest (see page 15).

Students eagerly watch the festivities at the Alberta Legislature Centennial Time Capsule Placement Ceremony held on September 25, 2013.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA